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Guide to the devout Christian



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GUIDE  
TO THE  
DEVOUT CHRISTIAN.



GUIDE  
TO THE  
DEVOUT CHRISTIAN.  
IN TWO PARTS.

THE FIRST

Containing Meditations and Prayers for every day in the  
week; together with many occasional prayers,  
for particular persons.

THE SECOND

For more persons than one, or a whole family, for every day  
in the week, together with many occasional Prayers.

BY A PRESBYTER OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND,  
OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

---

REVISED AND CORRECTED BY

REV. CHARLES V. KELLY,  
RECTOR OF ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, HARRISBURG.

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In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let  
your requests be made known unto God.—PHIL. IV. 6.

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PHILADELPHIA:

R. S. H. GEORGE.

No. 25 SOUTH FIFTH STREET, ABOVE CHESNUT.

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## TO THE PUBLIC.

IN offering the following pages to the public, the Editor lays no claim to originality. The Meditations and Prayers are the pious breathings of a Divine of the seventeenth century, and have been selected on account of the purity, simplicity, and humility of spirit which characterizes the entire. Should these pages tend in the slightest degree to promote the spiritual welfare of a single reader, the Editor will have reason to think that his labour has not been in vain. Praying that the great head of the Church will accompany it with his blessing, this manual is sent forth on his service.

2000-2004

2005-2009

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## ORIGINAL PREFACE.

BESIDES those who neglect the public service of the church for want of a due sense of religion, there are too many led into the like neglect upon an opinion that their own private devotions are as prevalent and acceptable with God, as those of the public. Or else, secondly, that to read and pray in their own families on the Lord's Day, is all the duty that day requires, and God expects from them. And these are the snares with which the great enemy to peace and holiness deludes many well-meaning people in these kingdoms; and makes the public service of God so

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shamefully neglected. The first pretence is so directly opposite to the spirit and temper of Christ and his Gospel, that teach us to be meek and lowly; to that charity that vaunteth not itself, and is not puffed up: and to that humility and meekness which are the fruit of the Spirit; that it may be safely said, it is the fruits of spiritual pride. Nor is the second pretence better grounded; for there is no one thing in which the Christian world is more unanimous, than in asserting it our duty to set apart a portion of our time for the public service of God; and declaring that to be God's public service, when the congregation met in some public place, joins together to pray unto, and to praise God. This is that worship of God for which the seventh day under the Law was, and the first under the Gospel, is now set apart. And as he would have been thought an ill Jew, that

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did neglect to present himself on their Sabbath, in the Temple, or the Synagogue, to bear a part in the worship enjoined by his religion : so they ought to be accounted ill Christians, that neglect the public worship of God on the Lord's day more especially, and in that public manner which the Christians of all ages have ever practised, and believed a duty laid upon them by the Christian religion. For our Christianity does as strictly oblige us to the tributes of public adoration and praise, due to Almighty God, as the great Lord and Governor of the world, as to the secret piety and devotion which have no other witnesses than God and our own hearts. Nor is that a duty only, but a favour and a blessing too ; a blessing every good Christian ought to value, and to manifest that value by a sedulous attendance upon God's public worship, and a reverent and devout beha-

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viour therein. Let me therefore intreat all such persons, into whose hands the ensuing devotions fall, never so far to mistake me, nor themselves, as to think any thing else intended therein, but to assist them in their private addresses to Almighty God, when they want opportunity more publicly to serve him; and to judge so modestly of their own devotions, however frequent or serious, that they may never hinder them from the public, and therefore more honourable service of God; and as you tender the honour of God, and the interest of the church and religion established in these kingdoms, let not your remissness in coming to public prayers, nor your irreverence at them, be a stumbling block to those who renounce, nor an offence to those who own the communion of this Church; but believe it a duty which lies upon you, to make use of every opportunity to join in the public

service of the church; and be as serious, affectionate, and devout, when you are praying therein for common blessings, as when you are entreating God for the necessities of your own soul; and do not think your quality, whatever it be, sufficient to excuse any indecency in the service of God, but rather an obligation to give a good example to others; but for whispering, and talking, and rude and indecent gestures, and all irreverent behaviour in the church, during the time of prayers, look upon them, as in truth they are, public affronts to God and the religion established; and as you tender the honour of God and his church, carefully avoid them. But when you want opportunity publicly to serve God, the compositions of private men may be useful; those which follow are therefore written under the title of prayers for several persons, or a whole family, to accommodate such

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whose intimacy and dearness, makes them solicitous to join together even in their private devotions; and assist those, who by any natural inability cannot, or by some present aversion, or indisposition, are unfit to read, and so are incapable of the benefit of any other devotions or prayers but such as may be read to them by others. If the prayers fixed to the days of the week are thought too short, there is a longer form of morning and evening prayer; and particular graces, which may be added and used together with them, as in discretion you think fit.

# MEDITATIONS AND PRAYERS

FOR EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK.

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## PART I.

### A Meditation on the Lord's Day.

'Tis not the Christian's business to dispute whether nature or revelation first taught the world to celebrate his praise, who gave a being to it, by keeping one day holy: whether the patriarchs had stated times of worship, or whether the command given to the Jews, to keep one day holy, were the reenforcing of an old, or the giving of a new law: whether that law does oblige us to consecrate one day in seven, or render one seventh of our time the certain right of

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heaven? 'Tis enough, that the miracles and blessings of a Saviour's resurrection, that the descent of the Holy Ghost, and probably some particuar directions of our great Master, did so soon consecrate this day, that in St. John's time it was well known by the name of the Lord's Day; and its observation as a part of our common Christianity spread through the Christian world, and received together with the gospel, and that by a prescription almost as ancient as Christianity, this day challenges the public tributes of adoration and homage to our great Creator. This may therefore be coneluded, the day which the Lord hath made; and in a more especial manner, his day; and it is but justice to give to God the things which are his, and devote this day to his service, and a fit subject for our care, that a mistaken zeal may not change the Christian to a Jewish Sabbath; nor, a notion too loose, reduce it only to a day of leisure. But this is then a day truly holy to the Lord, when the church has our presence, and God our hearts; when union



gives courage to our addresses, and every Christian lends the heat of a holy zeal, to inspirit the public prayers, and carry them up to heaven ; and united devotions with a holy violence, force their entrance thither. Among such as thus keep holy day, let me go to the house of God ; let me not trifle nor sport, nor sleep this holy time away. Let not mammon impose necessities upon me ; nor any secular interest invade the right of heaven ; but let a public, serious, yet unaffected piety, and all the useful offices of friendship, and charity, and religion, attend and crown it, and let me never be ashamed thus to confess my Lord before men.

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### A Morning Prayer for the Lord's Day.

O Almighty God, who hast commanded every thing which hath breath to praise thee, and made this day holy to thyself, that we may adore, and magnify thy

glorious name, by whose power all things were made, and for whose pleasure they were created. Let thy name be glorious throughout the world; let thy power and the mightiness of thy kingdom be known unto men, and teach them to speak good of thee in all places of thy dominion. But in a more especial manner teach them whom thou hast redeemed, to thank thee for that mercy, which on this day laid the foundation of the world, and that goodness which has begotten in us a lively hope through the resurrection of thy Son from the dead. O do thou, that broughtest back from the dead the great Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, raise us all from the death of sin, and teach all that cry, Lord, Lord, to do the will of their Father which is in heaven! In mercy look upon me, thy servant, here before thee, to offer unto thee my thanks and praise for all thy mercies from day to day vouchsafed unto me, for the mercies of the night past, and bringing me again into thy presence. In thy mercy pardon my follies, and forgive my sins, and

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teach me to rest this day according to thy commandment: touch my heart with fire from thy altar; kindle in it the most sincere and ardent desires of thy love and glory: create in me a good and an honest heart, and let thy word bring forth an hundred fold, let it fall upon good ground, and do thou make it powerful to the salvation of my soul. Fix my affections on things above, that my heart may not wander, when I come into thy sanctuary, that a desire of the world may not withdraw my thoughts from thy service, nor the devil steal away the word from my heart. Let thy law this day be my guide, thy power my defence, and thy Spirit lead me in all my ways, that this may fit me for an everlasting rest, through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### A Prayer for the Lord's Day in the Evening.

O Lord most high, who dwellest not in temples made with hands, yet vouchsafest to admit poor mortals into the house where thou hast placed thy name, to approach before thee in thy courts, to be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, and to worship at thy footstool ! Look down from heaven, O Lord, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness, and thy glory, thy unworthy servant here before thee : hearken unto my voice, my king and my God, that prostrate myself to call unto thee, and offer my sacrifice of thanksgiving for the opportunities thou hast vouchsafed me to seek thy face, to pay my vows in the presence of thy people, and to come into the courts of thy house. In mercy pardon my wanderings and imperfections, and forgive the sins of my holy things. Cover all the misdeeds of this day : remove them as far from me as the east is from the west,

and the north from the south. Give me, O Lord, a sober mind, and a steadfast judgment, that I may hold fast that which is good, and not be tossed about with every wind of doctrine. O thou that art a Saviour of all them that believe ! Lord help my unbelief, and then bless me among those that have not seen, and yet believe. Let thy word never be unfruitful, but teach me to make much of thy law, to be a doer of thy will, and not a hearer only, deceiving my own soul. O thou that givest seed to the sower, do thou give the increase, and because it is thy will that it should be powerful to the salvation of souls ! O be it unto thy servant, according to thy will. Lord, be merciful unto all that are thine ; accept my supplication for all that stand in need of thy help : do good unto all men, especially to those that are of the household of faith ; receive me this night into thy care and protection ! O thou that neither slumberest, nor sleepest, do thou watch over me for good ; blast the malice and designs of the devil, and wicked men, and raise me

again in health and strength to praise and adore thy holy name. All which I humbly beg for Jesus Christ's sake, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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A Prayer for any time of the Lord's day.

O Almighty God, who art able to do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee, and disposeth the hearts of men as seemeth most agreeable to thy own will; give me a due sense of my failures and infirmities; make me sensible that in thee I live, and move, and have my being, and without thee can do nothing but sin against thee, that in all my wants I may have recourse to thy pity, and goodness, and for all that I enjoy, may magnify and adore thy bounty. Give me a lively sense of all those great and invaluable blessings, which as a Creator, and a common Father of mankind, thou hast vouchsafed to the world. And that I may never fail of a public tribute of adoration

and praise, let me take pleasure in going to the house of my God, that by hearing I may know, and by thy grace may be enabled to do thy will, and not deceive my soul by being a hearer only, that all thy ordinances may be useful, and every return of this day may make me fitter for the glorious appearance of thy Son in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



## MONDAY.

### A Meditation on the Love of the World.

Such is our eagerness in the pursuit of worldly blessings, that our devotions make but a short parenthesis in our time and business; and we are restless and uneasy till we fly back to the service of our mammon. Thus he that gives us our being and our time, is stinted to a day; nay, how oft is it that our greedy desires assault him in his

sanctuary, intrench upon his right, and our worldly thoughts observe no day of rest? But when we dare take so much courage, as to divide betwixt God and mammon, and notwithstanding the importunities of the world, yield one day back to our great Creator; yet then with what greediness do we return to our wonted drudgery in the service of the world, and grudge, and think we are injured, if a single quarter be spent upon a prayer; and our devotion is thought rude, if it ask a few minutes from the importunate world. Wretched mortals that we are! How happy might we be, did we believe we served ourselves by serving of our God; and by the same methods carry on our temporal and eternal interest; that prayer prospers our business, and that of the closet helps despatch in all other affairs. Let the Christian therefore here begin the management of those concerns for which Heaven has allotted so liberal a portion of his time. Let him not jump from the service of the preceding day, into a deluge of cares, till he has first importuned the con-



duct and the patronage of Heaven, but guarded by the hand of Providence, may cheerfully return to his worldly employments, and hope for success and blessings to crown his cares.

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### A Prayer for Monday Morning.

O eternal God, in whom I live, and move, and have my being, and who hast promised all things necessary to those that seek thy Kingdom, and the righteousness thereof: be thou pleased to accept my thanks for preserving me the night past, to direct and prosper me in all my undertakings of this day, and the ensuing week. Let thy Law be the rule of all my actions, and thy will direct and govern all my cares; that I may mind the blessings of this without hazarding those of the other world; and whilst I seek the necessaries of this life, I may not forfeit my hopes of that which is eternal, but so use thy bounty, that the unrighteous

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mammon may make me friends that will receive me into everlasting habitations ; and that I may so possess thy treasure here on earth, that at the same time I may be preparing for that which neither moth nor rust can corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal, that treasure which is laid up in heaven, and so manage the talents thou hast committed to my care, that I may at last receive my recompense in the number of the faithful, and enter into the joy of thy rest. But because without thee I can do nothing, and 'tis thou that createst in me, both to will, and to do, of thy own good pleasure : good Lord, let thy grace both prevent and follow me, this and all my days ; let it lead me into thy way, and then guide me there, that in all my works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, I may promote thy glory, and set forward the salvation of my own soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## A Prayer for Monday Evening.

O Almighty and most merciful Father, who hast permitted us to ask our daily bread, and promised all things necessary to those that seek thy kingdom, and the righteous thereof: be thou pleased to continue thy fatherly care and protection over me, to keep and bless me in all my ways, and prosper me in all the lawful concerns of human life: moderate my affections to the world, and so direct me in the pursuit of things temporal, that piety may sanctify all my cares, and a respect unto thy commands consecrate all my endeavours and desires. O holy Father, who art full of compassion and kindness, pardon whatsoever thou didst see amiss in the actions of this day, and accept my thanks for all thy mercies vouchsafed unto me therein, for thy bounty in supplying my wants and needs, and for thy mercy in enlarging my day of repentance: let thy grace attend all thy gifts, and so direct me in the management of them. that

they may be useful instruments of thy glory, and my gratitude and fidelity ; fit me for the reward of the faithful servant in the everlasting joys of my Master's rest. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to enlarge thy mercy in protecting me this night from sin, and sad accidents, from the malice of the devil, and the violence of wicked men ; watch over me, that I may lie down in safety, and rise again to praise thee in the light of the living : and all for his sake, who is the light of the world, Jesus Christ the righteous. Amen.



## TUESDAY.

### A Meditation on Providence.

The world is governed by the same eternal power and wisdom, by which at first it was made ; which, by ways, (secret and invisible as the hand that guides them, sometimes directs the counsels, and the

cares of men, to ends the agents never designed,) and by steady counsels brings that to pass, which seems the effect of casualty and chance ; whilst the best laid designs of men, are by the same over-ruling hand, crushed to nothing, and the fairest hopes are blasted. So little do our wisest cares and our best enjoyments avail, when wiser Providence thinks fit to disappoint the one, and deny a blessing to the other. Therefore that is only wisdom which leads us to a dependence on that of God : and those counsels only are safe, which guide to the most entire submission to his will : yet such is the pride and folly of human nature, that we measure our hopes by the depth of our own designs, and fondly think those hills so strong, that they can never be removed ; we pretend to carve out our own happiness, and to build our hopes, and found our joys on the wisdom of men ; and when crosses and disappointments, and unaccountable failures have discovered to us an over-ruling hand, yet even then we but divide our hopes between God and ourselves, and

whilst we confess our indigence, we discover our ambition, and with so much importunity and impatience beg the supply of our wants, that we affront the goodness we pretend to implore, and too often render our very prayers a fit subject for our repentance. But let me never so learn Christ, but commit my ways, myself, my hopes, and concerns to God, and entirely resign my will to his; for that goodness that provides for the lilies, the grass, and ravens, will never exclude me from his care: let me therefore never murmur nor repine, let no impending danger fright me to distrust; no threatening cloud drive me to despair; but let me commit my ways to him, that is wise beyond my understanding, and may be merciful beyond my hopes.

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### A Prayer for Tuesday Morning.

O most holy and Almighty Father, whose mercy has the same bounds with thy Pro-

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vidence, and is extended to all thy works, with the eye of mercy and compassion, look down upon me ; let not my many and my crying sins prevent thy mercies towards me, but let that compassion which can abundantly pardon, cast my sins behind thy back, and turn thy face from all my iniquities : let neither my lusts, nor my passions, my follies nor infirmities, my frequent omissions of holy duties, nor my cold and heartless performance of them turn thy mercy from me, nor my many transgressions provoke thy wrath and indignation against me : let not the abuse of thy patience and long-suffering, my squandering the talents thou hast lent me, nor my trifling away the precious minutes allotted to make my peace, turn thine ears from my prayers, or make any one of my offerings an abomination ; but let thy forbearance win me to amendment, thy goodness lead me to Repentance, and a sense of my transgressions bring a prodigal to thy arms. Let not my sins against heaven, nor before thee, nor my unworthiness to be called thy servant,

give me over unto thy wrath, but let his merits in whom thou art well pleased, make my peace; let his blood seal my pardon, and thy Spirit first prepare me for, and then seal me to the day of redemption. And that all thy mereies may redound to thy glory, accept my praise for the mercies of the past night; let the same Providence that then protected me, this day watch over me for my good. Let the showers of thy grace supplant the corruption of my nature, and through Christ to strengthen me; enable me to do all things necessary to godliness and honesty, to walk innocently and unblameably towards God and men, and at last attain to the resurrection of the just, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Tuesday Evening.

Almighty God, who knowest the wants, and pitiest the infirmities of thy creatures,



hearken unto my voice, O Lord, now I cry unto thee: have mercy upon me and hear me: Thou hast been my succour ever since I was born; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation! Leave me not in the power of my lust, neither do thou forsake me while sin is struggling to get dominion over me; but let thy Spirit direct my steps, and lead me in the way everlasting. O Lord, make my ways so direct, that I may keep thy statutes, that thy Law may be my guide, and I may exercise myself therein both day and night, discharging a conscience void of offence towards God and man, and living before thee in all godliness and honesty. O Lord, 'twas thy hand that at first did make and fashion me; 'twas thou that didst provide for me, when I yet lianged upon my mother's breast: 'twas thy power that made me, thy mercy that redeemed me, and 'tis thy Providence that daily provides for me; and should I tell of all thy wondrous works, they are more than I am able to express. O how great is the sum of them! and what shall I

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give unto thee, oh Lord ! for all these thy benefits : A broken spirit and a contrite heart are the only acceptable sacrifices : but these are not mine to give, for when I would do good, evil is present with me, and of myself I can do nothing ; but with thee O Lord, nothing is impossible. Be pleased therefore, first to create in me a heart truly contrite, and then accept it for a sacrifice. Forgive all my transgressions, and blot out all my misdeeds ; particularly those of this day. Continue thy protection over me this night ; let me be safe under thy wings, and when I lie down to take my rest, do thou make me dwell in safety. Defend me from the powers of darkness, and bring to nought the counsels of the ungodly, that I may evermore give thanks unto thee who art the help of my countenance, and my God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## W E D N E S D A Y .

A Meditation on the Vanity and Uncertainty of  
Worldly Enjoyments.

HE that made circulation and change, preserves the World, which has its ebbs and flows; and is to-day what it was not yesterday, and will be to-morrow what it is not to-day; and the course of nature so necessarily requires change, that her beauty and order is nothing else but change, directed by the all-wise Providence; and that alone in which we seem to have a certain and undisputed property; the bodies we fondly call our own, are in perpetual flux; every morsel we eat makes an alteration, and every breath we draw, makes it what it was not before; and every little and undiscerned pore, does every moment do somewhat towards a change; nay, our better part, the soul, that seems to partake the immutability of that nature by which 'twas

formed, yet in its operations is so inconstant to itself, that it distinguishes us as much from ourselves, as from one another; and is so unlike itself in the different states of the body, as if it were not the same immortal being that animates the child and the man. What certainty, then, can be expected? Where nature and the great Creator's will have fixed a worm to destroy the finest gourd, and the very nature of those bewitching vanities we doat upon, render their possession so uncertain, that they may vanish when Providence, human wisdom, and our own affections seem to unite them fastest to us; and that greatness which the world admires and pursues, is little else but fancy and opinion, and is sure of nothing, but more noise, greater cares, and a greater account; and that which is best built, when it's arrived to its height, but moves slower to a period, but still is moving thither, and like the sun once come to the meridian, still declines till it sets in a cloud. And can I hope to stand still whilst the world turns round? Or be exempt from the consequences of a gene-

ral revolution? Or think wealth or honor more steady in mine, than in other hands, or with regret and uneasiness fear their recess, which religion and nature tells me is unavoidable, or make this inconstancy a subject of trouble, which is the only foundation and best motive to all human hopes and industry; for if the enjoyments were fixed immovable by the hand of Providence, it would be in vain to rise up early, and sit up late, and eat the bread of carefulness; there would be nothing to provoke the industry of the little, nor need the menage of the great: but the same inconstancy is fuel to our hopes, as well as fears, and the perpetual circulation, gives room to hope a higher, as well as dread a lower state; and look for a flow, as well as an ebb of fortune. May religion then beget in me such a generous and immovable constancy, that the approaches of the world may not transport, nor the recess disturb me, the hopes of it not make me do an ill thing, nor the fears omit a good one.

### A Prayer for Wednesday Morning.

O Eternal God, whose bounty maintains the world, and fills all things living with plenteousness, who givest freely, yet never upbraidest our weakness; be thou mercifully pleased that thy grace may attend thy bounty, and thy Spirit bless and consecrate all thou givest, that I may so use the world as not to abuse it, and so faithfully manage the talents thou hast put into my hands, that I may be ranked in the number of thy good and faithful servants; and when I have performed like an hireling, my day, I may be rewarded in the joys of thy rest. Nor do I build my hopes on my own performances, but on thy mercy, and the merits of thy Son. Thou, O Lord, art infinitely blessed, and happy, in the enjoyment of thy own perfection, and 'tis not in the power of dust and ashes to add to thy felicity; but when we have done all, we are unprofitable servants, owing to thy grace all the good we do, and all the comforts we enjoy in

this life, as well as our hopes of a better. Therefore not unto us, O Lord ! but unto thy name must be ascribed the praise; it was thy hand, O God ! that made and fashioned me, and thy mercy that has preserved my soul from death, and my life from destruction; and 'tis thy goodness that has enlarged my day of repentance, that has brought me through the terrors of the past night, through the shadow of death, to praise thee once more in the land of the living : Lord open my mouth that I may show forth thy praise, and declare the wonders thou dost for the children of men. And let the same hand that protected me this night, preside over me, and be my helper and defender this day; and thy mighty power, by which thou subduest all things to thyself, either keep back and defend me from all temptations, or give me dominion over them, that sin may not reign in my mortal body, nor I obey it in the lust thereof, but live over this as if it were my dying day ; that I may be ready whensoever thou shalt please to call me, and with joy give in my accounts, when

thy Son shall judge the world, to whom with thee and thy blessed Spirit, be ascribed all honor and glory both now and evermore. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Wednesday in the Evening.

O Almighty God, whom rightly to know is everlasting life, and without whose favour and pleasure our days are but a shadow, and our years as vanity. In the multitude of thy mercies look down upon me who am but a stranger and a pilgrim as all my fathers were. O Lord ! there is no abiding city here, and those poor trifles we doat on here below, are nothing but vanity and vexation of spirit ; but in thy presence there is fulness of joy, and at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore ; therefore wean me from the inordinate love of the world, carry up my affections to things above : let my treasure be in heaven, and my heart be there also. Teach me thy



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ways, O Lord! that I may walk in thy truth, and knit my heart unto thee, that I may fear thy name. Do thou lead and guide me in all thy ways, that whilst I walk in this vain shadow, I may not disquiet myself in vain, nor drudge and toil to heap up riches that I know not who shall gather; but teach me to submit to thy will in all the methods of thy providence; and in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content. Teach me to abhor my own iniquities, and let nothing be so uneasy to me as to sin against thee. Let it be my meat and drink to do thy will, and let my delight be in thy statutes. And because man is to be cut down like a flower, and has but a short time to live, teach me to remember my latter end, to be always mindful of that great account I am one day to give. Thy purer eyes cannot behold the least iniquity with approbation; therefore, good Lord! be merciful to me a sinner, and heal my soul that has sinned against thee. Be not strict to mark, but in mercy forgive what I have done amiss this

day, and enter not into judgment with me for it. Accept my hearty thanks for the mercies of this day, and do thou, O Lord ! to whom the darkness and the light are both alike, preserve and keep, defend and bless me the ensuing night, and for evermore, for Jesus Christ's sake, my Lord and Saviour. Amen.



## THURSDAY.

### A Meditation on Human Frailty.

Sin was first drawn into the world by a woman, so able was the weakest hand to pull down ruin upon mankind : so easy it is to do ill, and so little study, contrivance or pains suffice to withdraw us from our duty, that the impress of divinity, the precepts wrote on nature were defaced by the charms of a single sense, and “ behold ’tis fair,” withstood the force of reason, and a law, to interdict the first disobedience. A

sad and fatal proof that in our corrupted state no chains will hold the unruly fiend ; for if in the state of innocence sin were able to break in upon the world, and in paradise itself invade mankind, how shall we now resist the strong man armed ? Armed by this great debauch of human nature, by the early possession of vice, and habits of sin well nigh as old as our being ; habits which make the same seed of original sin, bring forth in some ten, in some fifty, in others an hundred fold. That is indeed the cockatrice's eggs, but it is our own habits that nurse it into serpents : 'tis the sin of our immediate parents, that renders the sin of our first so dangerous, and the want of a timely care to instil the holy rules of virtue, that gives sin so universal a dominion in the world. For what reason is able to grapple with vice incorporated into nature, endeared by custom, and by long usage become familiar ? In these unhappy circumstances, who can wonder if men be governed by the law in the members, when they must take leave of what sin has made

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dear, put off a part of themselves, and subdue their very natures, before they can heartily set forward in the way to heaven? and when they do, there is hardship to conquer, and difficulty to struggle with; for the brightest soul (like Israel's cloud) has some dark side, some part or passion, that is less guarded than all the rest. And he that is proof against the most powerful assaults of a barefaced vice (like the strongest castle) may be taken by surprise. One glance may let in an adultery repulsed a thousand times by serious thoughts; and one passion transport the best of men, to the commission of what they again abhor, when cooled into their usual temper. O wretched men that we are! Who shall deliver us from this body of death? Whither can we fly? but to him that has conquered death for us, to him that assumed our natures without our corruption: 'tis he that must redeem us from the tyranny and dominion of it, and he that was tempted, and yet knew no sin, he only can deliver us from the power and prevalence of temp-

tation : his grace may be sufficient for us, and through his strength we may do all things. Let us therefore with zeal and courage go on in our Christian warfare, endeavoring by the power of heaven to conquer our natures, and subdue ourselves, that a sense of our fall may quicken us to run the faster : and the danger of evil habits teach us to crush the cockatrice in the shell, to prevent the very first steps of sin, and still press forward toward the mark of our high calling ; and that we may not be overtaken by the fatal night in which none can work, nor surprised into the grave before we have made our peace with heaven ; let us put on the armour of God, and do all to stand, that his grace may be our defence, and his strength our protection, that we may be secure under his wings, and by his grace conducted safe to glory and immortality.

## A Prayer for Thursday morning.

O Almighty and most merciful Father, who at first madest man upright, and now he has sought out many inventions, and sin is entered into the world by his disobedience, desirest not his ruin, and takest no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but invitest us to repent and live, and hast sent thy Son to save sinners, and with all the love and tenderness of a father daily callest upon us to turn from the evil of our ways, and save our souls alive. O blessed Lord ! let not one of these amazing instances of thy goodness and compassion be lost upon me ; but since the hearts of men are in thy hands, and thou canst work in me a power both to will and to do, O thou lover of souls ! let thy grace that has appeared to teach men to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, form in my soul the image of thy Son, which is created in righteousness and true holiness, and teach me to live righteously, soberly, and godly in this present evil world, redeem-

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ing my time because my days are evil; O do thou to whom nothing is impossible, enable me to go on from one degree of grace to another, till I become perfect in Christ Jesus, and that whilst it is called to-day, I may make my calling and election sure. Let thy grace be sufficient for me, and thy spirit help all my infirmities. Let the power of thy might subdue the sin in which I was born, and the succours of thy grace that iniquity in which I was conceived. Let no temptations befall me, but such as are common unto men, and in the midst of them, let thy hand find me out, and thy Spirit guide me, that with comfort and success I may ever escape them. When the law in my members was against that in my mind, with the same hand that made and fashioned me, be pleased then to defend me: when the devil lays his snares, and seeks to devour my soul, be thou my shield and buckler, and stand up to help me. Teach me so to resist that he may flee from me; or if my heart entice me, do thou who art greater than my heart and knowest all

things, make me more than conqueror. In thy mercy, O Lord ! accept my thanks and praise for thy constant care and providence over me, for the protection of the last night, and the favors thou hast this day renewed unto me. Let me be safe under thy wings the remainder of it, guide me in thy ways, direct all my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps may not slide, that I may diligently keep thy statutes ; and in thy merey pardon all my sins, for Jesus Christ's sake my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Thursday Evening.

O Almighty and ever blessed Lord God ! who knowest I am but dust, and rememberest whereof I am made, that all my dependance is upon thee, so that without thy help I can do nothing but sin against thee; have mercy upon me, O Lord ! for my soul trusteth in thee, and under thy wings shall be my trust. O hold up my goings in thy



paths, that my footsteps slide not, and according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences. Lord, lay not my sins to my charge, for they are like the sand of the sea for multitude, they are more than the hairs of my head, and are a sore burden too heavy for me to bear. But thy power is able to break the bonds of my iniquity, and cast away its cords from me. O Lord, let thy grace be sufficient for me, and though of myself I can do nothing, yet through thy strength, I can do all things; therefore, blessed Father, stir up thy strength, and come and help me: Help me to mortify all the lusts of my flesh, and when evil is present with me, Lord, fail me not, neither do thou forsake me, but send forth thy light and thy truth to guide me: direct my goings in thy way, and lead me in the way everlasting. O good God! to whom belong mercy and forgiveness, pardon the transgressions of this day, and in mercy accept my blessing of thee, for thy long-suffering and forbearance, and adding a day to the space of my repentance. Lord, bless thy own donations,

and let it never be laid to my charge, that thou gavest me time, and I repented not. In mercy continue thy Providence over me; preserve me from the danger and terrors of the night. Let not sin nor sad accidents come nigh my dwelling, nor any evil approach to hurt me, for his sake in whom thou art well pleased, Jesus Christ the righteous. Amen.



## FRIDAY.

### A Meditation on Afflictions.

AFFLICTIONS arise not out of the dust, but have their commission and their bounds, and limits from above, and are so necessary a part of the divine discipline, that God places his chastisements amongst the marks of his favor, and makes use of his rod to guide his children to the inheritance he prepares for them. For such is our unhappy temper, that lenity and forbearance are too

often mistaken and misemployed to serve the purposes of folly and security. How often are we evil when God is good to us, and sin the more when his favors abound; we prostitute his mercies, and debauch his blessings, and when all is serene and calm without us, our lusts are the more ungovernable within; and our virtues seldom thrive but under the manage and conduct of the rod! But Pharaoh confesses he has sinned, and the Lord is righteous; and stubborn Israel inquires after God, when he afflicts; and the impiety, that forbearance made bold and daring, shrinks at a storm, and in the house of afflictions, which is ever the best school of virtue and goodness, men commonly learn what nothing else can teach them; for he has then a God to pray to, that in the heat of his vanity and excess, had impudence enough to deny his Being; and that lewdness that never had any bounds, but its own will, there sometimes learns to abhor itself; and that virtue that was cold before, that was sick and uneasy to itself, there acquires new life and vigor, grows up

into choice and delight, and learns so to relish and enjoy itself, that it becomes its own reward, and supported by its own generous pleasures, a recompense to itself; why then should I dread a storm, that may either make or confirm me good, beget or improve my virtue; that if it find me ill may make me good, or if it find me good, will leave me better? May God then make me good, by whatever may seem best to him; let him give me such a virtue, as will ride out a storm, and then send what he will; teach me cheerfully to submit to the severest methods of his Providence, and then in whatever way he thinks best, let his will be done: for if his grace make me good, man can never make me unhappy.

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### A Prayer for Friday Morning.

O Eternal God, who dwellest in light inaccessible, which no mortal eye can approach and live, yet stylest thyself a God hearing

prayer, and art always ready to bow down thine ear to all such as call upon thee faithfully. Lord, prepare mine heart to pray, and let thine ear hearken thereunto; give me a sense of my necessities and wants, and teach me so to ask, that the lifting up of my hands may be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. And since thou hast promised pardon to all that confess and forsake their sins, be pleased to open my eyes that I may see and mourn for all my offences, and learn never more to behold my own iniquities with approbation. Take away the strength and power of my natural corruption, redeem me from the bondage and captivity of my own lusts, and let not sin have dominion over me, nor reign in my mortal body. Thon, O Lord, hast commanded thy servants to ask, and promised thou wilt hear when they call upon thee; O Son of David have mercy upon me; O Lord, heal my blindness and obduracy, speak the word that I may receive my sight, that I may discern betwixt good and evil, and see the

filthiness and deformity of sin, that I may abhor myself in dust and ashes, and so humble myself before thee, that the evil may never fall upon me that my sins deserve. O thou merciful preserver of man, do thou spare, though I have deserved punishment, and in the midst of wrath think upon mercy; pardon all my vanities and follies, my lusts and passions; forgive my known, and cleanse me from my secret sins: let the same goodness that has defended me the past night, protect and watch over me this day, that I may run the way of thy commandments, and do nothing but what shall be well-pleasing in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Friday Evening.

O Father of Mercies, who savest my life from destruction, and daily crownest me with mercy and loving kindness, who hearest the voice of prayers, and inclinest thine

ear when we call upon thee; O teach me to call upon thee as long as I live, and so to ask in thy Son's name, that it may be thy good pleasure to hear and answer all my petitions. O Father of Heaven and Earth, who knowest how to give good gifts to thy children, and hast promised to withhold no manner of good from those that fear thee, and that thou wilt give thy Spirit to them that ask it; open, O Lord, to thy servant that knocks, and give to me that ask, give me thy favor that is better than life; forgive me my unrighteousness, and cover all my sins. O Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before thee, and am unworthy to be called thy child; Lord make me thy servant. O let not mine heart be inclined to any evil thing, and let me never be occupied in ungodly works; set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips: make my whole heart to praise thee; teach me to rejoice and be glad in thee, and sing praise unto thy name, O thou most high. Let the benefits thou daily pourest upon me, teach me more and more to fear

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thy name ; thou hast laid help upon one that is mighty, let the mightiness of thy kingdom be known unto men by casting down the strong holds of sin and Satan, by putting on me the armor of God ; and enable me to proceed from grace to grace, from strength to strength, till I become perfect in Christ Jesus, and the new man be formed in me, which is created after his image in righteousness and true holiness. Lord, lay not the sin of this day to my charge, but let that mercy that pardons iniquity, transgression and sin, pass by all my offences; and accept my thanks and praise for the mercies this day vouchsafed to me. O prepare thy loving mercy and faithfulness, that they may preserve me the ensuing night; let thy hand hold me fast, and thy arm strengthen me, that the enemy may not be able to do me violence, nor the son of wickedness approach to hurt me: be thou my God and my Father, and my strong salvation, and let thy mercy be ever with me, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.



## S A T U R D A Y .

## A Meditation on the Necessity of a Holy Life.

RELIGION is the method and address of Heaven to make men good and virtuous, and is best understood when most practised; and by the piety it teaches, best asserts and defends itself: he best pleads the eause of Heaven, whose life is the fairest copy of its piety, and is the best advocate of the Gospel, that lives a pattern of that universal goodness it requires: he disputes best for his Christianity, that is good and virtuous by its sacred influence and eonduet; whilst unpractised arguments answer themselves, and conclude only against the man that brings them; for that zeal is of no value that is only fuel to itself, and spends in useless heats that warmth which should cherish a generous and useful virtue, and kindle the holy ardors of the most sincere and unaffected piety; for herein God has laid the

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foundation of our hopes, here centre all his precepts, his threats and promises : he gives assurance of life and glory, that having such promises we should purify ourselves ; has revealed his will, that we might know and obey it, and left his menaces on record, that the terror of the Lord might persuade men to be good and virtuous ; and sent his Son to die to redeem from the power and prevalence, as well as punishment of sin ; and surely he never intended that his righteousness should excuse the neglect of ours ; or his being good, warrant our being ill ; that our faith should supersede our charity, or the hopes of mercy he has given us, encourage the impieties he has forbid ; no ! God expects that that justice which spared not his own Son, should awake us from the flattering thoughts of an escape, if we neglect so great salvation as he tenders to us in the ways of peace and holiness ; that his righteousness should teach us the necessity of our own, and therefore assures us, that he loves, assists, and owns, and will at last reward our piety, that such considerations

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may make us duly sensible, that we must love and serve, and adore him here, if we ever hope to be glorified with him hereafter. Let then that eternal goodness be my pattern, and let me strive to imitate that perfect Being that I hope to adore and enjoy forever ; and my duty be a prelude to my reward, and a steady and serious piety introduce me to the joys that time shall never end.

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### A Prayer for Saturday Morning.

ALMIGHTY God, by whose power I was made, by whose mercy I have been redeemed, and by whose Providence and bounty I have been hitherto preserved and provided for ; in mercy look down upon me, and through him in whom thou art pleased, accept my person and my prayers, and my hearty sacrifice of thanks and praise for all thy mercies and favors vouchsafed unto me ; for preserving me the night past, and

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bringing me once more into thy presence, to magnify and adore thy holy name, for giving me so long a space for repentance, and so many invitations to return and live; for all the comforts and advantages of this life, which thou hast so liberally vouchsafed unto me, and for those glorious expectations of a better. O Lord, what is man that thou shouldest thus be mindful of him! and the son of man that thou shouldest thus regard him! But what am I, so wretched and miserable a sinner, that thy mercies are as constant to me as the day, that thou should'st give thy Son to die for me, and with all the tenderness and compassion of a Father invite me to repent and live, that have deserved nothing else but eternally to die! that thou should'st follow me with thy goodness, whilst I have pursued my ruin! that thou should'st use all the arts of love and wisdom to save me from the misery that my sins deserve, whilst I have been making sure of my own damnation! But, O blessed Father! let thy mercy at least prevail, thy patience overcome my obstinacy, and thy

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goodness and forbearance lead me to repentance, and thy holy Spirit make me humble, meek, and tractable, and obedient, and so direct and guide me this and all my days, that my conversation may be innocent and unblameable, that I may study to do good, and through thy mercy come at last to the joys of thy rest, through Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Saturday Night.

O Almighty and most merciful Father, to whose power and goodness I owe my being, and all the blessings I enjoy : accept my thanks and praise for all the mercies thou hast this day vouchsafed to me ; and teach me so to use the blessings thou givest me here, that I may at last be fit for those which are at thy right hand forever. Lord, forgive me all that I have done amiss, particularly the sins of this day, and for the

future teach me so to live, that by prudence and innocence, by meekness and charity, by the easiness and decency of my conversation, I may adorn the gospel of Christ, and never bring a dishonor upon that sacred name. Thou, O Lord, knowest the frailties and infirmities of human nature, how apt we are to repine at thy dealings with us, to envy our superiors, to despise our equals, and censure all. How easily a temptation prevails upon us, how readily we yield to a lust, and are overcome by every attempt to turn us from our duty! In pity look down upon me, and forgive me what is past, and so arm me by thy grace and assistance for the future, that I may entirely resign my will to thine, and cheerfully submit to all thy dispensations; that I may behave myself with all due regard to my betters, with meekness and condescension to my inferiors, and with all imaginable candor and charity to all; that I may walk warily and circumspectly amidst the dangers and temptations that encompass me, and by patience and continuance in

well-doing, seek for glory and honor, and life eternal. O Lord, receive me this night into thy protection and care, watch over me whilst I sleep, and raise me again in health and strength to praise thee, through Jesus Christ our most blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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A Litany, or General Supplication, to be said at any time.

O God the Father, the Creator and merciful preserver of man, have pity and compassion on me a miserable sinner.

O God the Son, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon me.

O God the Holy Ghost, by whose power and aids we are guarded, preserved and kept, have mercy upon me.

O merciful Lord, by whose wisdom and Providence all things are ordered and directed for our good; receive me into thy

protection and care, and watch over me for my good, good Lord, I beseech thee.

From the heats of passion, from the surprise of lust, and the uneasiness and mischief of a proud and ungovernable spirit, good Lord deliver me.

From the murmurs and difficulties of a narrow fortune, from the insolencies and vanities of wealth, and from the designs of wicked men, from the snares of my own heart, from the malice of the devil, and an inevitable danger, good Lord deliver me.

From the withdrawing of thy grace, and from a strong temptation, from the sad effects of melancholy or despair, and evil opinions, good Lord deliver me.

That it may please thee to give me an humble, thankful, and obedient heart, a tractable will, a quiet and easy spirit, governable affections, and a devout soul, good Lord I beseech thee.

That I may study to be quiet and do good, that I may live as becometh the Gospel of Christ, that I may be always under the guidance and protection of thy grace and



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Providence, and with the fruits of righteousness adorn my holy profession, good Lord I beseech thee.

That my failings may make me more careful and vigilant, that I may still retain a penitent heart, and due sense of my sins, and by thy grace live an instrument of thy glory, good Lord I beseech thee.

That I may believe all thou hast said, and do all thou commandest, that I may fear, and praise, and adore, and love thee, and be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting, good Lord I beseech thee.

That my conversation may be easy and unblameable; my life holy, exemplary, and useful; that I may so live, that I may be fit to die, and so die in thy faith and fear, that I may be ever happy with thee, good Lord I beseech thee.

O Lord, hear and answer my prayers, for Christ Jesus' sake. Amen.

### A Short Prayer for any Morning.

O Almighty Father, to whose goodness I owe the safety and protection of the past night, do thou vouchsafe to accept my praises for the same, and renew thy mercy with the day : let me as constantly share the light of thy Spirit, as that of the sun ; let thy law this day be my guide, thy power defend me, and thy grace direct me, that every day thou addest to my life, may make me fitter for the great day of accounts, and thy mercy for the joys of thy rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### A Short Prayer for the Evening.

O Almighty and most merciful Father, who delightest in showing mercy and doing good ; pardon the sins I have committed, and teach me thankfulness for the mercies I have this day received : continue thy

watchful eye of Providence over me : defend me this night from all evil accidents, sin and danger ; refresh my body with moderate rest and sleep, adorn my soul with the graces of thy holy Spirit, and save both body and soul in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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A Prayer to be used at our coming into Public Prayers.

Good God, be merciful unto me in the pardon of all my sins : let not their guilt intercept our prayers, nor hinder the descent of thy blessings ; but do thou teach us how to ask, and answer our petitions, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

A Prayer to be used when hindered from Public Prayers.

O most gracious and eternal Father, who hast promised to accept of mercy instead of sacrifice; let not my absence from it deprive me of the blessings of thy house, but of thy goodness pardon my omission, and let me share the benefit of thy people's prayers, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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A Prayer for one that is troubled in mind.

O Father of mercy, from whom comes every good and perfect gift, speak peace to my soul, say unto it, I am thy salvation. O Lord, be merciful to me a sinner; heal my soul that has sinned against thee! O blessed Father, suffer me not to be tempted above what I am able to bear, but with the temptation make me a way to escape it!

O contend not forever with a poor mortal ;  
be not always wroth with a soul thou hast  
made ! O sweet Jesus, thou wast tempted  
like to poor sinners, that thou mightest be  
touched with a feeling of our infirmities,  
and be ready to help in the time of need !  
O help me in my time of need. Say unto me,  
*thy sins be forgiven !* Deliver me from  
the snares of death that encompass me,  
from the pains of hell that take hold upon me.  
O be merciful unto a soul thou hast re-  
deemed, deliver me from thy wrath and  
from everlasting damnation. Amen.

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### A Prayer against Evil Thoughts.

O eternal God, before whom all things are  
open and naked, who knowest my thoughts  
before they are formed, and art privy to the  
secret motions of my heart, before they as-  
sume the turpitude of sin ! be thou pleased  
that thy grace may prevent every vicious  
inclination that may arise in my heart, and

stifle all my propensities to sin : speak the word, and heal the corruption from whence they spring. Let the blessed Spirit so influence, and direct, and sanctify all my thoughts, that a secret guilt may not harbour there, but all my intentions and secret purposes may be regulated by thy will, and conformed unto thy law, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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### Another.

O Almighty and most merciful Father, who art a searcher of the heart, and a trier of the reins, and before whose tribunal I must one day account for every guilt that stains my thoughts; be pleased so to guide, direct and govern them, that they may not wander when they should attend thy service; that neither envy, folly, lust, nor passion, may dwell there, but they may be always righteous in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### A Prayer before, or in a Journey.

O Almighty God, whose power rules over all, and whose Providence extends itself to the whole creation, receive me into thy protection and care, and give thy angels charge to keep me in all my ways. Deliver me from the snares of wicked men, that may purpose to overthrow my goings: bring both my soul and body safe to the place where I would be, and let no evil befall me in my way. O preserve my goings out and my coming in, henceforth and for evermore. Amen.

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### A Parent's Prayer for Children.

O blessed Father, whose gift and heritage children are, in mercy look down on mine; make them thy servants; be thou unto them a God and a Father, and show them thy salvation. Teach them to fly youthful

lusts, and so to live, that out of their lives thou mayest perfect thy own praise: make them holy and innocent, harmless and unblameable; guide them with thy counsel, keep them in thy ways, and let them never depart from thy statutes. O suffer them to come unto thee, and forbid them not, but make them a part of thy kingdom here, and receive them into thy glory hereafter, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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#### A Prayer for a Sick Friend by a particular Person.

O Father of Mercies, who hast commanded us to pray one for another, and promised that the prayer of the faithful shall prevail: O Lord, let my prayer enter into thy ears, and do thou hear me sinful dust and ashes, in the behalf of thy servant which labours under thy hand. O thou merciful preserver of mankind! preserve him in this time of trouble from all discontent, murmuring, and impatience; and in



meekness teach him to possess his soul ; though the snares of death encompass, and the pangs of hell take hold upon him. O speak peace to his soul ! Bid it be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven, and say unto it, I am thy salvation : wash it in the blood of thy Son, cleanse it from all unrighteousness, and whensoever thou receivest it, receive it into the mansions of bliss and joy prepared for those that love and fear thee. But with thee, O Lord, there is nothing impossible, and if thou wilt but speak the word, thy servant may be healed. O speak that comfortable word ! and when he is made whole, teach him to sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto him ; but make him thy servant, and show him thy salvation, give him ease under, or enable him to support all his sufferings, and whether he live or die, make him thine ; heal his body, pardon his sins, and save his soul, and all for thy mercies sake in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

A Prayer to be said for a sick Child, by a particular Person.

O Holy Jesus, who didst vouchsafe to be born of a woman, and consecrate the infirmities of childhood: Lord speak the word that this child may be healed. O let it live to praise thee! But if it be thy pleasure to take it to thyself, Lord, be it according to thy will: let not mine, but thy will be done. Teach me patience, humility and submission, and then Lord do thou whatsoever shall seem good unto thee; only let the child thou takest from me be taken into thy arms. O suffer it to come unto thee, and forbid it not! but let it be one of thy kingdom to all eternity, and so prepare me to follow, that we may meet together in a joyful and glorious resurrection, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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A Prayer in time of Sickness, to be used by the  
Sick Person.

O most merciful and Almighty Father, who art able to make dry bones live, to show thy loving kindness in the grave, and make the dead rise up again to praise thee, and from whom alone comes health and salvation. O thou great physician of soul and body ! who healest all our maladies, and forgivest our sins, be thou graciously pleased to speak the word that thy servant may be healed : heal my soul, and then if it be thy good pleasure, my body also. Forgive the sins that provoke thy wrath, then stop the hand of the destroying angel ; prolong my day of repentance, and let every minute thou addest to that, make me fitter for the great day of account. Let my patience be as great as my pains, and thy compassion and grace sweeten and sanctify all my sufferings ; take away the sin that gives a sting to death, and let not the grave boast a victory ; and for his sake that took away

the sins of the world, let my many and crying sins be freely and fully pardoned ; that if thou thinkest fit to restore me to my health, and prolong my days in the land of the living, I may praise thee for thy goodness, and declare the wonders thou dost for the children of men : But if the last sands of my glass are running, and death is at the door, I may pass from death to life, and through the grave to the joys of thy rest ; and with him that died live forever, Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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A Thanksgiving after recovering from Sickness, to be said by the Person restored to health.

O Lord, who hast chastened and corrected me, but not given me over unto death ; and so wrought for thy name's sake, that I am now alive to praise thee : O teach me to declare thy works, and from day to day to tell of thy salvation ; that I may daily honour thy name, and preserve thy goodness in

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everlasting remembrance, that has raised me up from the gates of death, and once more restored the voice of joy and health to my dwelling. O kindle in my soul the most sincere and holy love! Raise my heart to the highest pitch of gratitude! and whilst I have a being, teach me to praise thee with joyful lips. O let thy loving correction make me great in thy favour! and teach me never more to sleep in security and sin. O let it be good for me that I have been afflicted, by teaching me from thence, to learn that my days are but a shadow, and my years as nothing, and in my best estate I am altogether vanity; that I may wait all the days of my appointed time, till my change shall come; and be ready at whatsoever hour my Lord shall call. And that thy scourge may prepare me for thy love, and thy correction fit me to be received into thy arms, teach me to abhor my own iniquity, and raise my affections beyond the vanities of the world, that I may love Thee above all things; my neighbour as myself, and do good unto all men;

and let thy angels keep me in all my ways, that whatsoever I do I may do all to thy glory. O let thy grace increase with my strength. Let my delight be in thy law, that I may be exemplary in my life, and my light may shine before men, that living I may live in thy fear, dying I may die in thy favour, and rest for ever in the felicities of thy chosen, through Jesus Christ my Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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A Prayer to be said by a Sick Person before he receives the Blessed Sacrament.

O Almighty God, who hast numbered my months, and determined my days, and now layest thy hands upon me that I may remember my latter end: O Lord improve the mercies of thy rod, and prepare me for the period of my life, that is hasting by like a shadow, and like a dream when one awaketh. O Lord, in my flesh there dwells nothing but evil, there is no sound part in

my body; I am nothing but wounds and bruises and putrifying sores, and the thoughts of my heart have been only evil, and that continually. O how often have I slighted the tender offers of thy mercy! how often have I turned my back upon the sacred ordinance in remembrance of thy Son, or rose from thence to return with greediness to my former sins: but now thou hast brought my sins to remembrance, my iniquities go over my head, and are like a sore burthen too heavy for me to bear; but with thee, O Lord there is nothing impossible, if thou wilt thou canst make me clean. Good Lord, speak the word, that thy servant may be healed! heal all my maladies and forgive my sins; receive a prodigal into thy arms; make me worthy to taste of thy supper, and cast not forth a sinner that comes unto thee. O Lord, send down thy help from above, to create a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me: purge me that I may be clean, give me a repentance never to be repented of, and such a faith as works by charity; and let thy charity teach me to

forgive my enemies, to bless them that curse me, and pray for those who have at any time despitefully used me ; that thus clothed with the graces of thy Spirit, I may be fit for the supper of thy Son, and gather a double portion of thy heavenly manna before my approaching day of rest. All which I humbly beg for Jesus Christ's sake, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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Prayers to be said in time of Sickness, by the  
Sick Person.

FOR ACCEPTANCE.

LORD, turn thee, and have mercy on me, for I am desolate, and in misery ! O God, make haste unto me, that art my helper and deliverer, make no long tarrying, O my God ! Hear my crying, O God, give ear unto my prayer, for thou art God alone, and none can deliver as thou dost. O let my prayer enter into thy ears.



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Confessing God's Providence and his Justice in  
Afflicting.

O my God, 'tis thy hand that has laid trouble upon my loins! 'Tis thou that chastenest and correctest man for sin, and afflictions rise not out of the dust. O how justly mightest thou have changed thy rod into a scorpion, and my light affliction into everlasting burnings! O how dreadful had been my doom, hadst thou entered into judgment with me, and rewarded me according to my deservings!

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Confession of Sins.

O blessed Father, how often, and how long have I sinned against thee! my sins are all in thy sight, and my iniquities are not hid from thee; thou canst tell over all my backslidings, and call my sins by their names, for they are all open and naked in

thy sight! O whither then shall I go from thy presence, whither shall I fly, or what shall I do? If I take the wings of the morning, they cannot carry me from thy Spirit, or my own conscience; nor is there any darkness or shadow of death where I may hide myself! O how often have I stopped my ears when thou didst call me to repentance, and how just would it be with thee to mock, now my calamity is come!

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### Deprecating Punishment.

O remember not against me my former iniquities; help me, O God of my salvation, for the glory of thy name! O suffer not thy whole displeasure to arise, but deliver me, and purge away all my sins for thy name sake; let not death be their wages, nor hell their portion!

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For Pardon of Sin.

O blessed Jesus, who camest on purpose to seek and save that which was lost ! O blessed Father, that wouldst have all men come to repentance, and none to perish ! be merciful to a sinner. O be merciful to my sin, for it is great ! Blot out my transgressions as a cloud, wash me in that fountain opened for sin and uncleanness ; and justify me freely through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ ; O say unto my soul, thy sins be forgiven thee, and I am thy salvation !

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## A Prayer for Holiness.

O thou that art the God of all flesh ! there is nothing too hard for thee ; O say unto me, I will, be thou clean ! and be it unto thy servant according to thy word : redeem me from all iniquity, and sanctify me through-

out; and with the blood of Jesus Christ purge my conscience from dead works to serve thee, the living God.

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### A Prayer for true Repentance.

O Holy Father, give me a repentance never to be repented of! put thy laws into my heart, and write them upon my soul. O do thou turn me that I may be turned; draw me, that I may run after thee: give me an heart of flesh, and out of a stone raise up a child to Abraham! O teach me to abhor my own iniquities, and let it be my meat and drink to do thy will!

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### For Faith, Hope, and Charity.

LORD, I believe, do thou help my unbelief; give me a faith strong and steadfast;

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let it work by love, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance. O thou that art the hope of all the ends of the earth ! be thou my hope : let my hope be in thee, and let it be such as will purify from all filthiness, both of flesh and spirit.

O thou God of love ! take from me all rancour and malice, give me brotherly kindness and charity : give me a heart tender and compassionate, and teach me to love my brother as myself, my God above all things, and let my charity be such as will never fail.

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For removing the Suffering, or Patience under it.

O blessed Jesus, that art touched with the sense of our infirmities ! take this cup from me ; nevertheless, not my will, but thy will be done ; and if it cannot pass from me except I drink it, O merciful Jesus ! give me patience whilst I taste the bitter cup ; remember thy agonies, and pity mine : and

though my soul be sorrowful unto death, be thou still my God ; leave me not, nor forsake me. O be thou my comforter, and help me in the needful time of trouble,

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### For Recovery.

O thou that art the God of health and salvation, restore the voice of joy and health to my dwelling, that I may come into thy gates with thanksgiving, and into thy courts with praise. O let me live to praise thee in the great congregation, and tell how great things thou hast done for my soul.

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### For a sanctified use of Afflictions.

O merciful Father, who scourgest those thou lovest, and chastisest those thou wilt receive ; let thy loving correction purge out all my dross, and make me great in thy fa-

vor. O let me learn thy statutes in the school of affliction, and let it be good for me that I have been afflicted : let thy hand awake me from my security in sin, let it teach me to call my own ways to remembrance, and turn unto the Lord, to remember my latter end, and know, that in my best estate I am altogether vanity. Let the remainder of my life be thine, and let nothing separate me from thy love and service ; but let the little time thou art pleased to spare me before I go hence and be no more seen, make me ready whensoever my Lord shall call.

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### For Preparation for Death and Judgment.

GOOD Lord, have mercy upon me, fit me for the great and dreadful day, prepare me for that account I am to give ; and because I cannot answer thee one of a thousand, O let thy Son's merits plead for me, and accept his sufferings as a propitiation for my sins ; in him be thou well pleased. Make

me ready to go down to the gates of the grave, that when I shall no more see the inhabitants of the world, and remain no longer in the land of the living, and have finished like an hireling my day, I may be blessed in the felicities of thy chosen; and with thy holy saints and angels bless and praise thy holy name for ever and ever. O Lord, hear my prayers, and let my cry come unto thee, for Jesus Christ's sake, my blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Who hast taught me to pray for what thou knowest needful for me, saying, Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, &c.

[When you have little hopes of recovery, you may add,]

Blessed Father, who didst frame me in the womb, and knowest all my members yet being imperfect, and hast appointed that when the body turns to dust, the spirit should return to God that gave it: O Lord, into thy hands I commend my soul, thou gavest it, and it is thine! O Lord receive



thy own ! thou madest it, O reject not the work of thy own hands ! 'tis thine by purchase, O do thou receive what thou hast redeemed ! O Lord thou God of truth. O my redeemer, thou wast dead and art alive, and livest forever ! O say unto thy servant, be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee ! In thee I trust, let me never be confounded. O make my death precious in thy sight, and number me with thy saints in glory everlasting. Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly ; O receive my spirit, and let it be with thee, O Christ. Amen and Amen.

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A Prayer, to be used by the friends of the sick, when there is no hope of recovery, or if strength will permit, by the sick person.

O Father of mercies, receive a sinner to thy arms ! O thou great bishop of souls, receive thy servant's soul. O thou great Shepherd of Israel, receive a sheep of thy own fold ! O blessed Comforter, complete

the image of Christ in thy servant's soul, make supplications for it, and perfect in it the works of grace, of faith and repentance, of love, and holy obedience, and let there be nothing wanting to fit it for everlasting rest, with the souls of just men made perfect.

O God that formed it, have mercy upon it! O God that made it, do thou be pleased to save it! O blessed Jesus! that didst die to save souls, have mercy upon thy servant's. O Holy Ghost, that hast sanctified it, suffer it not to perish! O God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, deliver it from the bitter pains of eternal death, and receive it into thy arms, O blessed Jesus, our only Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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A Prayer for Patience and Content.

O Almighty and most merciful Father, who by thy Providence dost wisely order all things for the good and welfare of mankind, and dost dispense thy mercies and thy judgments as seems to thee most expedient to that great end, placing every one in such circumstances as thou knowest best and fittest for them; teach me perfectly to resign myself to thy will; and not only without murmuring, peevishness, or repining, to submit to thy disposal; but with patience and content, to acquiesce in whatever trial or condition thou hast ordered or appointed for me; that at last, through his merits who has suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow his footsteps, I may attain to the resurrection of the just; and having submitted to thy will here on earth, may with thy holy angels eternally do thy will in heaven; and with them adore and praise thy name for ever and ever. Amen.

## A Prayer for Repentance.

O Almighty and most merciful Father, who wouldst not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should repent and live; and hast commanded all men every where to repent: have mercy and compassion on me, sinful dust and ashes: teach me to call my own ways to remembrance, and with sorrow and indignation to look back on my past iniquities, and mourn for them. The hearts of men are in thy hands, O Lord! and thou turnest them where thou wilt; O do thou create a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me! Give me a true sense of, and a hearty detestation of all my sins; teach me sincerely to resolve against them, and give me grace to be true to my resolutions; and let my repentance be such, as is never to be repented of; a repentance to salvation. And all for his sake in whose name thou hast commanded repentance and remission of sins to be preached to all

nations, Jesus Christ, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Holiness.

O most holy and eternal Father, who art of purer eyes than to behold the least iniquity with approbation ; and hast declared, that without holiness no man shall see the Lord : do thou purge me from all filthiness both of flesh and spirit ; teaching me to deny all ungodliness and worldly lust, and to live righteously, soberly, and godly in this present evil world. O make me holy in all manner of conversation ; and holy as thou art holy ; and so to live before thee in holiness and righteousness all my days, that at last with thee, O most holy Father ! I may receive the fruits of holiness ; and with them that by well-doing, seek for glory, and honour, and immortality, eternal life ; and all for the sake of thy holy Child, Jesus Christ the Righteous. Amen.

### A Prayer for Faith.

Almighty God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift, and who art the author and the giver of every good thing; do thou purge out my diffidence and infidelity; strengthen and increase my faith; let it be vigorous and lively, and let it work by charity; let it influence my life and practice; and teach me so steadfastly to look up to the author and finisher of my faith, that I may cheerfully run in the ways of thy commandments, and diligently keep thy statutes; and at last be happy among them that believe, and be received with thy faithful servants into the joys of thy rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Grace.

O most merciful Father, who knowest me to be set in the midst of so many and

great temptations, that by reason of the frailty of my nature, I cannot always stand upright; and hast promised to give thy Spirit to them that ask it: O Lord let thy grace be sufficient for me! Manifest thy strength in my weakness; and in all trials and temptations let thy grace be present with me, that when I am tempted I may not fall, but through thy assistance escape the snares of sin and folly; and so run the race that is set before me, that I may at last obtain the crown of righteousness; all which I humbly beg for his sake, who is the Son of thy love, Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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A Prayer for Content in, and a right use of  
Prosperity.

O Almighty God, who knowest how uneasy we are in the midst of plenty; how ready to murmur even in the possession of all temporal blessings; and when thy Pro-

vidence is most indulgent towards us, to create to ourselves occasions to complain : do thou, O Lord, remove from me all pride and peevishness, all uneasiness and discontent ; sweeten my querulous nature, and add to thy other blessings, a spirit serene and easy, humble and contented ; and let thy grace teach me how to abound, to be cheerful and thankful in the enjoyment of the blessings thou bestowest upon me ; and so to use them, that they may make me such friends as will never fail, and fit me for the everlasting possession of true riches in bliss, and glory, through Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Temperance.

O most holy and ever blessed Jesus, who hast consecrated the infirmities of human nature, by taking upon thee our flesh ; and not only taught us by thy example to govern our passions, and bound our appe-



tites, but promised to assist in well doing all that call upon thee ; help me, I beseech thee, for the glory of thy name ; and so constantly protect me by thy grace and goodness, that no temptation may betray me to intemperance ; that my table may never become a snare to me ; nor the indulging of my appetite destroy that for which Christ died ; but give me a perfect conquest over my appetite, and teach me to live up to the strictest rules of temperance, that no disorders of body or mind may ever prejudice my health, or stain my innocence ; but that in my body and my spirit, which are thine, I may glorify thee, O blessed Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Meekness and Humility.

O most merciful Father, who knowest the vanity and infirmities of human nature, and dost promise to pity and forgive them ;

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have mercy on me, vain dust and ashes, and forgive all my vanity and ambition. Let not the reputation, or opinion of any thing that is great or good in me, puff me up, or make me insolent and uneasy to the meanest person; but do thou, O blessed Father! who puttest a value on the ornament of a meek and humble spirit, subdue every proud and aspiring thought, and teach me to learn of him that is meek and lowly, and find rest to my soul from all those uneasy vanities that attend on haughtiness and ambition: and all for his sake, who was the great pattern of meekness and humility, Jesus Christ the righteous. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Chastity.

O most holy Father, who art of purer eyes than to behold the least iniquity with approbation, and commandest that we should be pure as thou art pure: do thou purify me from all filthiness both of flesh

and spirit ; let no uncleanness pollute my body, no lust defile my soul ; but let my body be holy and undefiled, as the temple of the Holy Ghost ; and my soul pure from every unclean thought and irregular desire ; and all my words and actions modest and innocent ; and teach me so entirely to conform to the strictest laws of chastity, that at last with those that have kept themselves unspotted from the defilements of the flesh, I may be a follower of the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Charity.

O blessed Father, who didst so love the world, as to give thy Son for it ! O blessed Jesus, who didst so love thy very enemies, as to die for them ! O blessed Spirit, whose fruits are peace and love : take from me all rancour and malice, all hatred and bitterness ; and pour into my heart that most excellent gift of charity ; teach me to over-

come evil with good, and let my charity be such as will never fail, but fit me to adore, and praise, and love thee for ever and ever. Amen.

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### A Prayer for any Married Person.

O most holy Father, who in paradise didst appoint and consecrate the conjugal state, bless thy servant to whom that holy state has obliged me in the sacred ties of love and duty. Teach us mutual forbearance, and tenderness, and kindness to one another; and let a perfect harmony and agreement of our affections, be the evidence that by that holy state thou hast made us one: bless us together with all spiritual and temporal blessings; forgive all our failings and infirmities, and let the most sincere and sacred love sweeten and endear the cares that attend that state of life, and fit us to be ever happy with the God of peace

and love, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
Amen.

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### A Prayer for any Unmarried Person.

O Almighty God, who in thy wisdom dost proportion and adapt thy mercies to the wants and necessities of men : do thou, O Lord, who knowest what dangers and temptations attend every state, and what blessings are most needful for it ; in thy mercy bestow upon me whatever in thy wisdom thou knowest most needful ; let no temptation befall me, but what thou wilt enable me to bear : sanctify my present state and condition, and teach me to live in it as becomes the gospel of Christ ; let my conversation be innocent and prudent, my reputation untainted, and my life unblameable. Teach me to be contented in whatsoever state I am ; let my demeanour be easy and cheerful, free from sourness and disdain, from pride and vanity, from lust

and folly ; and preserve me chaste and holy, innocent and undefiled ; and all for his sake, who is the Lamb without spot and blemish, Jesus Christ the righteous. Amen.

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### A Prayer in time of Affliction.

O most just and holy God, who hast taught us that afflictions rise not out of the dust, but are ordered by thy wisdom, and directed by thy providence ; in thy mercy and compassion look down upon me, poor dust and ashes, labouring under thy afflicting hand ; give me patience under it, and let thy mercy support me whilst I smart under the terrors of thy wrath and justice ; and thy grace be sufficient for me ; teaching me entirely to resign to thy will ; and let thy blessed Spirit so direct and guide me in calling my ways to remembrance, that I may find out the accursed thing that has provoked thy wrath and indignation against me ; and so strengthen me, that I may

hate, and abhor, and cast from me my dearest follies, and forsake my beloved impieties, and thy anger may cease from me. O thou that killest, and makest alive ! hear my prayer, forgive my sin, and turn thine anger from me, for his sake in whom thou art well pleased, thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### A Prisoner's Prayer.

O most holy God, who dwellest in light inaccessible, yet humblest thyself to behold the condition of the most miserable creatures ; with an eye of pity and compassion look down upon me ; sanctify to me this my sad and afflicted state ; give me patience to undergo it, and deliver me from it in thy good and appointed time : let thy wisdom so direct and guide thy rod, that this suffering may teach me with sorrow and regret, to reflect on my past sins and follies, and unfeignedly to abhor and forsake them, and

by true repentance make my peace with heaven; that it may be good for my soul that my body has been afflicted, and this light affliction may work for me a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. I confess, O Lord, 'tis just with thee thus to deal with me for my sins, and reward me for my past iniquities; but with thee, O Lord, there is mercy: O let that mercy triumph in my pardon and remission, and reward me not according to my iniquity; but save and deliver me, and make haste to help me, O God, my God. Amen.

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#### A Prayer for a Person condemned to die.

O most just and holy Lord God, who bringest to light the hidden things of darkness, and by thy just and wise providence, dost bring sin to shame and punishment, frustrating the hopes of wicked men, visiting their sins upon them in this present life, that thou mayest deter others from the evil



of their ways, and save their souls in the day of our Lord Jesus. O Lord, in mercy look down upon me a wretched and miserable sinner, who come before thee to confess thy justice, in making me a sad example to others. 'Tis just, O Lord, thus to deal with me for my sins. Nay, O Lord, I must with sorrow and shame confess, it would be just with thee, should death eternal be the wages of my sins, and everlasting sorrow the recompence of my iniquity ! O Lord, I have slighted thy mercy, and what can I expect, but to be an everlasting sacrifice to thy justice : I have stopt my ears when thou hast called me to repentance ; O how just would it be now with thee to stop thine, and not to hear me in this my day of trouble ! how oft have I made a mock of thy tender offers of grace and mercy ! O how just would it be with thee to mock now my calamity is come upon me ! How have I hardened my heart notwithstanding all thy importunities to repent and live, still going on from one wickedness to another, with greediness acting over

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the works of darkness, and even hating to be reformed ; and what can I expect but that thou shouldst deal with me according to my sins ? and how sad and deplorable would be my estate, shouldst thou reward me according to my iniquities ! But with thee, O God ! there is mercy ; and thou wilt not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should repent and live. O God the Father of heaven, O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon me a sinner, otherwise miserable to eternity. O God who hast so loved the world, that thou gavest thy Son for the redemption of it ; let me not perish. O most holy Jesus ! that camest on purpose to call sinners to repentance, and sheddest thy blood for the remission of sins, have mercy upon a poor wretch that deserves eternally to die. Pardon and forgive me, and let me find mercy in this my time of need : pardon my wilful, and my heedless follies, my errors, and my crying sins, particularly that for which I am to die [here mention your sin for which you are to suffer, and particularly ask God's

pardon for it, and then proceed] O Lord, thou God of mercy, have pity on the work of thy own hands ; and look upon me not as I am, polluted with my sins ; but through his merits, who came to take away the sins of the world ; bury my sins in his grave, and however they may rise in this world to shame me, let them never rise in that which is to come, to condemn me ; and whatever I suffer here, let me be blessed hereafter among them whose unrighteousness is forgiven, and whose sin is covered ; and however men may kill my body, let my body nor my soul never be destroyed in hell, but eternally saved, for Jesus Christ's sake, that died to save sinners. Amen.

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### His Prayer for Preparation to Die.

O most merciful Father, who knowest how frightful death is to human nature, and how sin makes it the prince of terror : O fit me for this dreadful hour that is draw-

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ing on, and that great account I must shortly give ; and for this end forgive me all my sins, which make me afraid, and unfit to die ; strengthen and increase my faith, found it upon Christ the true rock, make it sound and steadfast, and through thy mercy, O blessed Father ! and thy Son's merits, effectual ; awaken my conscience to a true sense of, and a hearty sorrow for my past impieties ; teach and enable me to hate and abhor them ; and let my repentance be such, as thou wilt accept from a miserable sinner, a repentance to salvation. O Lord, inflame and enlarge my charity, teach me to forgive all the world, to forgive my judge, to forgive my accusers, and the witnesses against me ; and if they have done anything that is amiss, in bringing me to this sad end, do thou forgive them too, and let my blood never be upon them nor their posterity. O holy Father, give life and vigor to my hope ; let me neither presume upon, nor despair of thy mercy ; but let thy mercies, and thy Son's merits be the foundation of my hope ; let that hope purify me from all filthiness,

both of flesh and spirit, and let me not be disappointed of, but obtain the end of my hope, the salvation of my soul. O Lord turn me, that I may be turned; wash me, that I may be clean; purge away all my filthiness and corruption, and sanctify me throughout; clothe me with the wedding garment; and by thy goodness, and thy Son's merits, make me fit for, and then let my pardon be sealed in Heaven, before I go hence and be no more seen; and washed in the blood of that immaculate Lamb, let my soul be presented before thee pure and spotless; and so soon as it is separated from my body, let it be with thee, O blessed Jesus! who didst die to save souls. O God the Father of heaven, have mercy upon me a miserable sinner! O God the Son, redeemer of the world, have mercy upon me a miserable sinner! O God the Holy Ghost, have mercy upon me a miserable sinner! Spare me, O Lord most holy! O God most mighty! and deliver my soul from thy wrath and everlasting damnation, and receive it into thy arms, O most mer-

ciful Father, through Jesus Christ my blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen and Amen.

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A Prayer recommending his Soul to God.

O Almighty and most merciful Father, who hast appointed unto all men once to die, and after this to come to judgment : O fit me for this dreadful hour, and that great account I am to give ! Look upon me through his merits in whom thou art well pleased ; wash my soul in his blood, and save it for thy mercy sake. O thou that art the Creator and lover of souls, have pity and compassion upon mine ! Cleanse me from all my unrighteousness, and forgive me all my sins ; and with the tenderness and bowels of a Father, receive a poor prodigal into thy arms ; and though I have sinned against Heaven, and before thee, and am unworthy to be called thy servant, yet, O holy Father, do thou receive me to

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pardon and mercy, for his sake who died for sinners : spare me, Lord most holy ! O God most mighty ! and deliver me from the guilt of all my sins, from thy wrath, and from everlasting damnation. O most holy Jesus ! who didst lay down thy life that poor sinners might not die eternally ; and shed thy blood, that mine might not be upon my head ; receive a miserable wretch to thy arms : O say unto me, *thy sins be forgiven*, and receive me with thy faithful servants into the joys of thy rest, and let me be ever with thee. O Lord, into thy hands I commend my spirit ; for thou hast redeemed me, O thou God of truth ! O let it be precious in thy sight, and with the souls of just men made perfect, dwell with thee in glory everlasting ; for Christ Jesus' sake, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer. O Lord Jesus receive my spirit. Amen and Amen.

The Merchant's or Seaman's Prayer, to be used at  
Sea.

O eternal God, who orderest all things according to thy will, and without whose blessing and protection, 'tis in vain that we rise up early, sit up late, and eat the bread of carefulness; receive me into thy care and protection; give thy angels charge over me, to keep me in all my ways; and let thy Almighty goodness preserve me in health and safety, amongst all the dangers of a boisterous and unruly element. O thou that showest thy wonders in the deep, preserve me from the terrors of storm and tempest, the violence of the waves, the barbarity of pirates, and miseries of shipwreck, and make this voyage safe and prosperous, and me thankful for these, and all thy mercies, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen,



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Merchant's or Seaman's Prayer in a Storm.

O Almighty God, who mightest justly destroy us in thy wrath, and suffer us to perish in thy fury ; O Lord, call not our sins to remembrance, but have mercy upon us ; spare us, Lord most holy ! O God most mighty ! O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us from this dreadful state. O Lord, save us, or else we perish ; say unto the winds, peace and be still ; and to the sea, be thou calm, and let the winds and the sea obey thee. O show us thy wonders in the deep, and stretch forth thy hand to save us ! O be thou our Saviour and deliverer, and make haste to help us, O God my God ! But if it be thy will that our bodies should perish, good God fit us to die, forgive our sins, and have mercy upon our souls, for Christ Jesus' sake. Amen and Amen.

## A Thanksgiving after a storm.

O Almighty God, who hast showed thy power and goodness, in stilling the rage of the sea, and the fury of the winds, and delivered us from the jaws of death, whose iniquities might deservedly have been our ruin ; who hast showed thy wonders in the deep, and restored us to safety, when the sea was ready to swallow, and destruction to shut her mouth upon us: Not unto us, O Lord, but unto thy name be ascribed all possible thanks and praise, for this thy great mercy towards us: Give us all a due sense of it, and teach us to show forth thy praise in giving up ourselves to thy service, and walking before thee in holiness and righteousness, till thou shalt call us to thyself, eternally to adore and praise thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen,

## A Thanksgiving Prayer after a good voyage.

O most gracious God, from whom all good things do eorne, and to whom all thanks and praise are due ; accept the return of a thankful soul, for thy eare and Providence over me, in bringing me baek to enjoy the fruits of my pains and dangers ; make me sensible that all my dependenee is upon thee, and that from thy goodness I derive all the mereies that I enjoy ; that it is not my own eare or eonduct, or the wisdom or industry of man, but thy merciful providenee, which is over all thy works, that has given success to my endeavors, and a happy end to all my fears and dangers ; and do thou give me grace to be thankful and show my gratitude, by giving up myself to thy service, and walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all my days, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

## A Prayer before, or in a Fight at Sea.

O Almighty Lord of hosts, who givest victory in battle, and on whom alone all success depends; in mercy look down upon us, and be good unto us, as thou usest to be to those that call upon thy name: be our keeper and preserver in the midst of danger; cover our heads in the day of battle, and deliver us not unto the will of our enemies; let them not triumph over us, nor say, we have prevailed: but let thy Providence watch over us, and preserve us safe among all the casualties and terrors of a fight; let thy arm strengthen us, and thy Almighty power give success to our arms: give us conduct and courage; fit us for the worst that may befall us; but if it be thy will, crown us with victory and honor, and preserve us in health and safety, to praise thee in the land of the living, who art the only giver of all victory, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and deliverer. Amen.

# FAMILY PRAYERS

FOR

EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK.

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## PART II.

A Prayer for the Lord's Day in the Morning.

O eternal God, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, and to whom we owe the uttermost service, that our corrupted natures render us capable of performing; be pleased to assist us in the holy offices of this day, and in thy mercy accept them: since thou hast vouchsafed to carry us through the dangers of the past night,

let the same Providence proteet us in the undertakings of this day ; and the Spirit of wisdom so direct us, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name. Since thou hast vouchsafed to give us thy gospel, and to bring life and immortality to light, yet hast not dealt so with many other nations, nor given them knowledge of thy laws ; let not our ingratitude render us unworthy of so great a blessing, nor our lust ever so far prevail as to make that merey become a snare, or force us to ehooose darkness rather than light, because our deeds are evil ; but let thy grace so accompany thy gospel, that it may be a light to our feet, and a lantern to our paths ; and by thy Almighty power a happy instrument of our salvation.

For this end, take from us all blindness and hardness of heart, all tenderness and affection to sin ; open our understandings to see the wondrous things of thy law, and set our affections on things above. Let not the dullness of our own hearts render thy gospel fruitless, nor the cares of this world,

or the deceitfulness of riches choke the good seed of thy word. Let there be no enemy to sow tares, but make the ground good, and let it bring forth an hundred fold: let thy Spirit go with us to the house of prayer, and purge away those lusts that make it a den of thieves, that our public services may be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Good God, hear us and answer us, and do more for us than we are able to ask or think, for his sake who sits at thy right hand to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ the righteous, to whom with thee, and thy blessed Spirit, be ascribed all honor, and glory, and praise, and adoration, both now and for evermore. Amen.

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### A Prayer for the Lord's Day in the Evening.

O Almighty God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than either we desire or deserve; be

pleased to accept our sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving for the mercies thou hast this day vouchsafed unto us : for the glad tidings of the gospel of peace, for inviting us to repent and live, and calling upon us to make our peace with heaven ; be pleased to add one blessing more to all the rest thou bestowest upon us, that is, hearts so truly sensible of all thy mercies, that thy calls may awake us from our sleep in sin, and thy word be quick and powerful in searching our deceitful hearts, that a secret guilt may not escape, nor a darling sin resist it ; but let the balm of Gilead heal all our maladies ; build us up in our holy faith ; let that faith work by love ; that love so manifest itself in keeping thy commandments, that we may enter into life. And that thy word may not fall among briars and thorns, nor thy preaching in our streets rise in judgment against us ; be graciously pleased that the powerful influence of thy blessed Spirit may constantly attend it, and bring it home to all our souls. Let the same hand that plants, give the increase,



and the same mercy that gives the seed, prepare the soil, and let the increase be an hundred fold; that the light of thy gospel that shines round, may point out all our failings, and show us what the Lord would have us to do; may teach us to make it our great business to inquire what we must do to be saved; and kindle such a zeal as may hasten our diligence, to work out our salvation with fear and trembling; and among the number of thy faithful servants entitle us to a blessing in the day of our Lord Jesus. Yet lest our guilt should defeat our hopes and prayers, and thy word fall like showers or seeds upon a rock, that neither mollify nor bring forth fruit; and our sins cry loud enough to make us deaf to the voice of the charmer: for thy mercies sake (O Lord) heal our backslidings, and forgive our sins; forget our provocations, pass by our numberless transgressions, and magnify thy power in showing mercy and pity; spare us, good Lord, O spare thy people whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood; reward us not according to

our iniquities, but let thy mercy surmount all our sins, and thy goodness triumph in the pardon of all our follies. O thou merciful preserver of mankind, who sparest when we deserve punishment, and in the midst of thy wrath thinkest upon merey; extend that mercy to all our works; and forgive us the sins even of our holy things. Let not our carelessness or our coldness, our unpreparedness or our inadvertency in hearing of thy word, nor any one of those impieties we have this day added to our great account, prevent thy mercy, or keep back a full and free pardon of all our sins: but let thy Son's merits hide us from thy vengeance, and cover us in the day of wrath. Good Lord, let the same merey that has this day protected us, be our sanctuary and protection through the terrors of the ensuing night; and the same goodness that has this day fed our souls, this night refresh our bodies; and keep us safe from violence and danger, from sad accidents and sin, that we may once more praise thee in the land of the living; and by adding time to the day

of our repentance, we may be so prepared, that when our Lord shall come, he may find us doing of his will, and in the number of his faithful servants, receive us into the joys of his rest, to whom with the Father, and the holy Spirit, be ascribed all honor and glory, both now and for evermore. Amen.

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### A Family Prayer for Monday Morning.

O eternal God, whose hand has laid the foundations of the earth, and whose right hand has spanned the heavens; who givest breath to the people upon the earth, and spirit to them that walk therein; who art gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great mercy; who art good to all, and whose tender mercies are over all thy works: hear us, O Lord God of Israel, who are less than the least of all thy mercies, and are unworthy to come into thy presence; but thou hast given us thy Son,

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and for his sake promised to give us all things; therefore in confidence of his satisfaction, we presume to offer up our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for the mercies of the day, and the night last past; and to call upon thy name for whatever thou knowest to be needful for our souls and bodies: give us this day our daily bread: let thy treasure, who fillest all things living with plenteousness, supply all our wants and needs; and teach us so to live upon thy bounty, as those that must give an account for every talent they receive; that we may make ourselves friends of our unrighteous mammon; that we may so use the world, as not to abuse it; and so do thy will, that when the world passeth away, and the lusts thereof, we may abide for ever and ever, and in the number of faithful servants, enter into the joys of our master's rest.

O Lord, let thy grace this day be sufficient for us, and let no temptation befall us, but what thou enablest us to bear: let thy laws that are holy, just, and good, be our counsellors and our guide: do thou make

all our ways righteous in thy sight; and do thou prosper us in all that we set our hands unto: teach us to die to sin, and live unto righteousness, and let every one that names the name of Christ, depart from all iniquities; purify us unto thyself, and make us a peculiar people, zealous of good works; and let all that call upon thy name, be holy, as thou art holy: do good to all that we are bound to pray for; pardon all our sins, forgive and convert our enemies, and bless our friends; go along with us this day in all our works; let thy ways be ours, and do thou keep us in them, and let thine be our will, that whatever we do, we may do all to thy glory; and do thou save us in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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### A Family Prayer for Monday Evening.

O Lord our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who art a God hearing

prayers, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; hear us, sinful dust and ashes, that in the multitude of thy mercies come into thy presence to make our supplications before thee. O cast us not away from thy presence, nor take thy holy Spirit from us; but let his assistance help all our infirmities, and make all our oblations acceptable before thee. Whom have we in heaven but thee, O Lord, and what is there on earth that we can desire in comparison of thee and thy favour! 'Tis in thee we live, and move, and have our being; if thou but hide thy face, a weight of sin and trouble does readily beset us; if thou take away our breath, we die, and turn again to our dust; if thou art angry, all our days are gone, and we bring our years to an end, as a tale is told; but in thee, O Lord, is our hope; thou art our strength, and our confidence, and our merciful God: and be thou our help in the needful time of trouble. Lord help us against the law in our members, that wars against the law in our minds; against the wiles and subtleties of him who seeks whom

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he may devour ; and through thy strength make us conquerors over all temptations. Let no sin get dominion over us ; but say unto us, thou art our salvation. O Lord teach us to number our days, and apply our hearts unto wisdom, to redeem our time, because the days are evil ; and to give all diligence to make our calling and election sure ; that we may not only have hope in this life, but die in the Lord, and be with Christ, which is far better.

Lord, be merciful to all that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, bring them into thy light and thy truth, and guide all our feet into the ways of peace ; accept our supplications for all Christian Rulers and Magistrates, giving them grace to execute justice, and to maintain truth. Bless the President of the United States, and all others in authority ; make them all zealous of good works, and let their light shine before men. Be merciful unto this sinful land, heal the sores thereof ; teach us all to love and fear thee, make us a willing and obedient people, and do thou delight to

dwell among us and do us good. O remove not thy candlestick from amongst us, but let thy gospel be a light to our feet, and a lantern to our paths ; and teach us all to live as becometh the gospel of peace. Bless this place to which we belong. Let virtue and piety, and whatever is praise-worthy and of good report, flourish and abound in it. Bless all that are near and dear unto us by whatever tie and relation. Now, O Lord, into thy care and protection we resign ourselves, our souls and bodies, beseeching thee not to remember against us our former iniquities, nor to lay to our charge the sins of this day, to accept our unfeigned thanks for all thy mercies continued or vouchsafed unto us this day. Lord, receive us this night into thy arms, refresh our bodies with sleep, defend our souls from sin, and let our persons and estates, and all that belongs unto us be secure from danger, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer, to whom with thee, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, both now and for ever. Amen.



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A Family Prayer for Tuesday Morning.

O Almighty God, who art rich in mercy to all such as call upon thee, and always ready to hear our prayers: O Lord, bow down thine ears, and hear us, that fall low before thy footstool, beseeching thee to bless us, in turning us from all our iniquities, in writing thy law upon our hearts, and making steadfast all our purposes to keep thy commandments; teach us to wait all the days of our appointed time, till our change shall come; that when the evil days come, and the years draw nigh in which there is no pleasure, we may have so fought our fight, and may so finish our course, that the crown of righteousness may be ours that is laid up for us.

Lord be merciful to thy people wherever dispersed, or however distressed; in righteousness establish the throne and the sceptre in justice; instruct our counsellors, and teach our senators wisdom: clothe thy priests with righteousness, and let the people hear

the law from their mouths. Defend the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and see that the poor and needy have their right. Reward all our benefactors a thousand-fold into their bosoms; bless all our friends, and forgive our enemies; bless us also, O our Father, that prostrate ourselves before thee, to praise and magnify thy holy name, for all thy mercies from day to day bestowed upon us, for thy care and protection the past night, and the mercies thou hast this morning renewed upon us. O Lord, increase our thankfulness, as thou increasest thy blessings. Let thy hand hold us up this day, and thy spirit guide us, that we may lay aside the weight of sin that does so easily beset us, and so look up to the author and finisher of our faith, that we may not be weary in well doing, but be faithful unto the end, and obtain a crown of righteousness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## A Family Prayer for Tuesday Evening.

O Father of all mercies, who art full of compassion, and of great goodness; in mercy hear us that now call upon thee, trusting in the promise of thy Son, that thou wilt give us whatsoever we ask in his name; for his sake accept our persons, and our prayers, and our praises, for the mercies of this day: make us sharers in that remission of sins that he so dearly purchased. Let his death atone for us, who deserve everlastingly to die; and for the merit of his, let not our blood be required at our hands; but let thy goodness lead us to repentance, and from his example, teach us so to follow his footsteps, that he may be the author of eternal salvation to us that obey him. O do thou be pleased to make us thy people, and delight in doing us good; and according to thy great goodness have mercy on us. O Lord, we must confess, we have sinned against heaven and before thee, and are not worthy to be called thy children: O make us thy servants. There

dwells no good thing in our flesh ; but sin is always present with us, and our deeds are evil, and that continually ; but the power of thy grace is able to subdue all things to itself. Do thou work in us both to will and to do of thy own good pleasure. Lord, let not ours, but thy will be done ; and let it be done as it is in heaven. Let thy ways be known upon earth, thy saving health unto all nations ; and let all the ends of the earth fear thy name : quench not the smoking flax ; break not the bruised reed ; but comfort those that mourn, and give medicines to heal all their sickness. Bless all in authority over us ; and so rule their hearts and strengthen their hands, that they may punish wickedness and vice, and maintain thy true religion and virtue. We beseech thee for the President and Congress of these United States, that thou wouldst be pleased to direct their counsels, and teach our senators wisdom. Let justice and judgment be executed by all that are put in authority ; and let them not be a terror to good works, but to evil. Bless their endeavours that labour in thy vineyard. Bless the people

of these United States; teach them all to fear thy name, from the least to the greatest; and make them the happy people, that have the Lord for their God. Bless us also, bless us, O our Father, who commend our souls and bodies into thy hands. O remember not our former iniquities, nor the transgressions we have this day transgressed against thee. Spare us, O Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death; but keep us this night under thy protection, and refresh our bodies for the service of the next day. Let not this night begin our last sleep, but continue us yet longer in the land of the living; and as thou grantest us time for, so grant us the grace of repentance: O let it never be laid to our charge, that thou gavest us time to repent, and we repented not; but fit us more and more to stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Mortify all our corrupt affections, and perfect in us the image of thy Son in righteousness and true holiness; and make us ready whensoever it shall please thee to call us to our ever-

lasting home. O Lord, hear us and answer us, and do more for us than we are able to ask or think, for thy Son's sake, Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour, to whom with thee and thy holy Spirit, be ascribed all honour and glory, both now and for evermore. Amen.

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### A Family Prayer for Wednesday Morning.

O Almighty and most merciful Father, who sparest when we deserve punishment and in the midst of wrath thinkest upon mercy; who hast not recompensed as after our deservings, nor been extreme to mark what we have done amiss; but thy blessings have been renewed to us every morning, and thy goodness constantly, as the sun shines on the evil as well as the good; Lord, what are we sinful dust and ashes, that thus thou shouldst be mindful of us; and what is the son of man, that thou shouldst thus regard him? We are born in sin, and conceived in iniquity; by nature

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children of wrath, and can plead right to nothing but damnation : And by our manifold breaches of thy law, we have improved that right, acquiring a new title to a miserable eternity. Thy long-suffering and forbearance we have despised, nor has thy goodness led us to repentance not to be repented of; and what are we to expect, but that this day should begin the day of thy wrath and indignation against us? That, “depart from me, I know you not,” should be our doom, and thy justice and our demerit kindle that fire which shall never be quenched; but seeing of thy mercy we are yet in the land of the living, and by thy goodness we are encouraged to hope that we shall live with thee to all eternity; and those we have already received, animate our petitions for new blessings: Be thou graciously pleased to accept our thanks and praise for the mercies of the past night; and seeing thou art pleased that that should not be the last scene of our lives, nor our sleep till the last resurrection, but hast given a fresh instance of thy favour to-

wards us, in adding new minutes to the day of our repentance ; what thy goodness has made ours, let thy grace and holy Spirit make thine, by consecrating to thy service, by so governing, guiding, and directing us in all our actions and undertakings, that this may be a day holy and acceptable to thee our God ; and in all our works begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name ; and finally by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### A Family Prayer for Wednesday Evening.

O Almighty and ever-living God, who inhabitest eternity, and yet humblest thyself to behold the things that are done in heaven and earth, and stylest thyself a God hearing prayers, a God ready to pardon the failings, and accept the imperfect service of thy creatures ; be pleased therefore, to hear from heaven thy dwelling-place, and when



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thou hearest, to forgive us ; and accept the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice ; let not our guilt intercept our prayers, nor turn thy face from our petitions ; but let its importunity for revenge, be drown'd in that blood that cries loud for mercy, and speaks better things than that of Abel : let not the provocations of this day, our omissions of duty, our cold or heartless prayers, nor our repeated transgressions of thy law, be brought into account, nor enter into judgment against thy servants ; let not the sins of our nature, the sins of this day, nor those of our lives, that have exceeded the number of our by-past minutes, and like the sands of the sea-shore are numberless, ever hide the light of thy countenance from us ; but lay them all upon his shoulders, who was wounded for our transgressions, and bore our iniquities ; and let them be a part of the hand-writing nailed to his cross, that may neither rise to shame, nor condemn us. Be merciful, good God, to the whole race of mankind, to all our friends and relations, to all who desire

our prayers, to all whom thou hast put in authority; or appointed to serve at thy altar; bless them with such gifts and graces, as may fit them for thy service, and prepare them for thy glory; and since thou hast commanded all flesh to come unto thee, and promised to open to those that knock, and that to those that ask it shall be given; be pleased not to cast us out, who with all humility implore thy pardon for the iniquities of this day; and prostrate ourselves before thy throne, to beg acceptance of our gratitude, and in thanks and praise to acknowledge thy mercies towards us; we confess that 'tis of thy mercy that we are not consumed, that the grave has not this day shut her mouth upon us, nor destruction covered us; that we are yet on this side hell, and our day of repentance not yet closed up in eternal night and darkness; be pleased to add to thy mercies, in receiving us this night under the protection of thy Providence; let thy angels be our guard; and do thou who neither slumberest nor sleepest, be pleased to watch over us, that

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we may be safe from all evil accidents, our souls secure from sin, our bodies refreshed with moderate sleep and rest, and we fitted to serve thee throughout our lives; that living, we may live to thee; dying, we may die in thee; and whether we live or die, be forever thine: all which we most humbly beg for the sake and merits of thy Son; to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all honor, glory and praise, both now and for evermore. Amen.

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### A Family Prayer for Thursday Morning.

HEAR our prayers, O Lord, and let our cries come unto thee, O thou merciful preserver of mankind! O be merciful unto us that fear thee, and pity us as a Father pities his children! Teach our souls to praise thee, and us, and all thy works, to speak good of thy name, for thy merciful goodness that endures forever upon them that fear thee. O what shall we give unto thee,

O Lord, for all the benefits thou hast done unto us? For giving thy Son to die for us, and shedding his blood for the remission of our sins, for making thy ways known among us, and thy saving health unto this our nation: for all the methods of thy goodness to lead us to repentance; and for the mercies of thy lash to correct us to amendment. O let the balm of Gilead heal all our maladies, and let thy gospel be powerful to the salvation of all our souls. And as we praise thee for all thy goodness unto the children of men, so in a more especial manner we praise thee, we bless thee, we magnify thy holy name, O Almighty and everlasting God, that thou hast been good to us that have sinned against thee: O how great has been the sum of thy mercies towards us! If we tell of them, they are more than we are able to express, and are like the sands of the sea shore for multitude. Thou hast formed us after thy image, and thou hast provided for us ever since we hanged upon the breast. Thou hast given us time, and called us daily to repentance;

thou hast watched over us while we slept ; O Lord teach us, whom thou hast redeemed, to praise thee, not only with joyful lips, but with holy and obedient lives; teach us to live over this, as it were, our dying day. O save us from our own wicked and deceitful hearts, and the charms of that sin that is ever present with us, from the law in our members, from the snares of the devil, and the deceitfulness of sin, and let the honor of thy grace be great in our salvation. Direct us in all the undertakings of this day : let thy testimonies be our delight and our counsellors, and let us not swerve from thy commandments ; give us food and raiment, health and plenty, content and peace ; forgive all our sins, and let it be our meat and drink to do thy will : bless all that is ours, and all that are related to us ; and do good unto all men, especially to the household of faith, for his sake who died for all, Jesus Christ the righteous, to whom, with thee, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all honor and glory, both now and for evermore. Amen.

### A Family Prayer for Thursday Evening.

O Lord God of Israel, who dwellest between the cherubims, yet lookest down from heaven, and beholdest the sons of men, knowest our down-sitting and our up-rising, and understandest all our thoughts, we thy unworthy creatures bow down and kneel before thee, to confess, that 'tis of thy mercy that we are not consumed; that thou hast not long ago given us our portion in that lake that burns with fire unquenchable, that thou hast not ere this time delivered us into the power of the second death; and we cannot but confess that thou hadst been just, though we had thus been judged. But, O Lord, thy mercy that is over all thy works, has been our constant guard, defended us from day to day, and thy Providence has been about our path, and about our bed, and kept us in all our ways, and thy goodness continually provided for us: 'tis thou hast kept our souls this day from destruction, and our feet from falling, and

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brought us into thy presence to offer our evening sacrifice; not unto us, but unto thy name, O Lord, be the praise! O teach our souls to praise thee, and all that is within us to praise thy holy name, for the mercies thou didst renew upon us with the morning, and thy protection over us this day. Lord, pardon whatsoever was offensive to thy purer eyes; pass by our infirmities and our follies, all our omissions of duty, and all the provocations wherewith we have provoked thee: teach us daily to grow in grace, and in all temptations succour us with thy mighty power; and so deliver us from evil, that we may do thy will on earth as it is done in heaven; that we may be holy, unblameable, and unreprieveable in thy sight, looking for the day of the Lord Jesus, that whensoever he shall come he may find us so doing. Accept our supplications for the powers thou hast ordained, for our gracious rulers, and all that are put in authority; and receive our prayers for all mankind. Let there be but one fold and one flock, and let all the ends of the

earth see thy salvation. O Lord, to whom the darkness and the light are both alike, give thy angels charge over us this night, favor us with thy protection, and refresh our bodies with such rest, that we may be fitter to serve thee the ensuing day, in the several stations in which thou hast placed us. Make us always mindful of our latter end, and of that long rest thou hast appointed for us, that we may pass the time of our sojourning here with fear and trembling, and finally be received into the joys of thy everlasting rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### A Family Prayer for Friday Morning.

O God the Father, who hast so loved the world, that thou gavest thy only begotten Son that we should not perish : O God the Son ! who tookest upon thee the form of a servant, have mercy upon us, and hear our prayers : let them ascend like incense, and



be merciful unto us, as thou usest to be unto those that fear thy name. O Lord, our iniquities are increased over our heads, and our trespasses are grown up to heaven; we have added the numberless transgressions of our lives to the uncleanness of our natures, and daily drunk in iniquity like water; and how shall we stand in thy sight before whom the heavens are unclean, and who chargest the angels with folly! O deliver us, wretched men, from this body of death, and let thy mercy and loving kindness always preserve us from the judgments that our sins deserve. Let thy grace be sufficient for us, and teach us to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, to live righteously, soberly, and godly in this present evil world, and yield all our members instruments of righteousness; and in the strength of thy own grace let thy name be exalted. Let thy name be glorious throughout the world, and every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. But in an especial manner let thy name be had in everlasting remembrance amongst those thou hast

translated out of darkness, and the shadow of death, into the kingdom of thy dear Son. Teach all that cry unto thee, Lord, Lord, to do thy will, and those that name the name of Christ, to depart from all iniquity. Bless us, O our Father, that are here to bless thee for the mercies of the night past, to confess that 'tis of thy goodness that we are not now receiving our portion with the worm that gnaws, and never dies, that we have an opportunity once more to praise thee : Lord, sanctify to us all the mercies thou bestowest upon us ; let this time teach us to redeem that we have lost ; and let thy forbearance win us to provide for our latter end. Turn us, O Lord, that we may be turned ; O turn our disobedient hearts to the wisdom of the just ! and save us in the number of the true Israelites. Let thy merciful kindness be upon us this day ; be thou our strong rock and defence, and from sin and danger now and ever mightily defend us. Bless all that we are bound to pray for, all that are related to us, and whatever thy bounty has bestowed upon

us; and so guide us by thy good Spirit, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### A Family Prayer for Friday Evening.

O Almighty and ever blessed Father, who art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders, and whose glorious name is exalted above all blessing and praise: hear us, O thou God of the spirits of all flesh, and let our prayers come unto thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands be acceptable as an evening sacrifice. O deal not with us according to our sins, neither do thou reward us according to our iniquities, for the angels are impure in thy sight, and man that is born of a woman cannot be clean. Thou didst at the first make us after thy image, little lower than

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the angels, and crown human nature with glory and honour; thou madest us upright, but we corrupted ourselves; have been transgressors from the womb, and ever since we were born, have gone astray; we have been vain in our imaginations, having our hearts darkened; and they have been deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; we have been alienated from the life of God, through the blindness that is in us; our hands have been laden with iniquity, our feet swift to run in the ways of destruction, and all our members have been instruments of unrighteousness. O how long have we cast thy laws behind our backs, and hated to be reformed! and how shall we stand before thee, when thy jealousy burns like fire, and thou shalt come to take vengeance upon all our sins! O Lord, we cannot say that we have not sinned, for then we shall deceive ourselves; nor can we answer thee for one of a thousand. Nay, shouldst thou enter into judgment with us for the sins of this day only, in thy sight we could not be justified. We

therefore fly from thee as a judge, to thee as a Saviour, beseeching thee, O God the Father of heaven, O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, to have mercy upon us, miserable sinners! Spare us, good Lord, O spare thy people that thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood. Forgive our past transgressions; and for the future, teach us to redeem our time, to run the way of thy commandments, and to walk before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Lord, bless thy people all the world over; bless this kingdom to which we belong, make ours that blessed nation, whose God is the Lord; and choose the people of this land for thy own inheritance. Protect the defender of the true faith; let magistrates be a terror to evil works, and not bear the sword in vain. O Lord, the harvest is great, send forth labourers into thy vineyard, and be thou with them unto the end of the world, that they may bring many souls to righteousness; and so prosper thy

word, that it may save their own souls, and them that hear them.

Now, O Lord, into thy hands we commend our souls and bodies, our friends and relations, and all that belong unto us, beseeching thee to watch over us this night, to refresh our bodies with moderate rest, and to deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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### A Family Prayer for Saturday Morning.

O Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those that ask in thy Son's name, in mercy incline thine ears to us, who in confidence of his merits, prostrate ourselves before thee, to confess our sins, to implore thy pardon, and thankfully own thy goodness towards us, in raising us up this morning in health and strength, and bringing us once more into thy presence.

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O Lord, open thou our lips, that we may show forth thy praise, that we may thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for all thy mercies ; that thou hast revealed unto us thy gospel, that is hid from those that perish ; that thou hast sent forth thy light and truth to guide our feet, whilst so great a part of the world sits in darkness, and in the shadow of death, and have no knowledge of thy laws ; that thou hast given us so long a day of repentance, and daily poured thy benefits upon us. O let all thy mercies turn to account, and let not the least of all thy blessings be lost upon us ; but do thou sanctify us throughout, that our souls and our bodies, that are thine, may praise thee ; that we may tell of thy salvation from day to day, and all the ends of the earth may fear thy name. And because we cannot stand in thy sight, if thou shouldst be extreme to mark what we have done amiss, O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins, neither do thou reward us according to our iniquities. Spare us, good Lord ! O spare thy people, whom thou

hast redeemed with thy most precious blood! And because our sufficiency is of thee, and without thee we can do nothing, turn us that we may be turned, and wash us that we may be clean, that we may delight in that which is good, and keep thy statutes unto the end. Direct us this day in thy ways. Let all our discourses be such as will administer grace to the hearers; remembering that for idle words we must give an account in the day of Judgment. Let all our actions be lawful and right, and then do thou prosper the works of our hands. O prosper thou our handy works, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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### A Family Prayer for Saturday Evening.

O most glorious and ever blessed Lord God, we thy most unworthy servants, with all humility prostrate ourselves before thee, not trusting in ourselves, but in thy mercy that will abundantly pardon, and in his



merits who has reconciled us by his death, and made our peace by the blood of his cross; he is the strength of our confidence, and in him alone we place all our hopes; but of ourselves we cannot but acknowledge, that we are unworthy to come in thy presence, and to be called thy servants, and much more to be called thy children; that we were conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity; that we have been strangers from the womb, and gone astray ever since we were born; that we have too, too often despised thy gracious tenders of mercy and forgiveness, and made light of all thy fatherly chastisements to correct us to amendment. The arrow that has killed by day, that has come so nigh our dwellings, and killed thousands in our streets, has not killed one of our lusts; and though thou hast often corrected us in thy judgment, when we deserved to be corrected in thy wrath and brought to nothing, yet still we have multiplied our transgressions against thee. When thou givest us meat enough, we eat thy bread, and by our intemperance

or unthankfulness, we lift up our heel against thee ; we slightly pass over thy laws, despise thy sanctions, and contemn thy precepts ; we trample upon thy word, abuse thy ordinances, and resist thy spirit that should seal us to the day of redemption. O who are we, that thy Spirit should strive with dust and ashes ! That thou shouldest send thy Son, that we should not perish, and give him to die, that we might obtain everlasting life, and deliver him to be wounded and bruised, to make us partakers of that fulness of joy that is in thy presence, and those pleasures that are at thy right hand for evermore ! O Lord, vouchsafe to add to all thy mercies, in creating a new heart, and renewing a right spirit within us, and making us thankful for all thy blessings. Teach us to deny ungodliness, and worldly lust, to live righteously, soberly, and godly in this present evil world ; prepare us for whatever troubles thou wilt lay upon us ; fit us for death and judgment, and that great account we are one day to give, that whensoever thou

shalt come, thou mayst find us so doing, that we may finally be received into the joys of thy rest.

Be merciful to the universal church, particularly to that vine which thy own right hand has planted in this land. Let not the wild boar out of the forest devour it, nor the little foxes pull off her grapes; but let peace, and charity, and piety, and whatever else is praiseworthy, flourish and abound: let peace be within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces, and let those prosper that pray for the peace of our Jerusalem. Bless our rulers and magistrates, and all that are put in authority; make their virtues as eminent as their places; and let their light so shine before men, that from their examples we may learn to glorify our Father which is in heaven. Be merciful to all that mourn, speak peace to all that are troubled in conscience, let the comforter give medicines to heal their sickness: relieve the poor, and defend the fatherless, and see that the needy have their right. Bring down the

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high looks of the proud, and let not their wicked imaginations prosper ; but let virtue be encouraged, let godliness prosper, and let it be the great business of all that call upon thy name to depart from all iniquity. Good Lord, with an eye of pity and compassion look down upon us that now humble ourselves before thee ; do thou spare though we deserve punishment, and in the midst of wrath think upon merey ; pass by our iniquities, and pardon all our offences, particuarly those of this day : enlarge thy merey, and declare thy goodness unto us sinful ehildren of men, in reeeiving us this night into thy care and proteetion. Let thy angels be our guard, and thy power now and evermore mightily defend us. Defend us from the snares of the destroyer, from the violenee and fury of wicked men, and from our greatest enemy, the corruption of our natures ; and so give our bodies refreshment, and bless that refreshment thou art pleased to give, that we may once more praise thee in the land of the living, that we may be fitted for thy service on

thy own day, and keep holy thy appointed day of rest, that we may once more be telling of thy salvation in the gates of Sion, laud thee amongst the multitude, and praise thee in the great congregation; all which we humbly beg in his name, and for his sake, in whom thou art well-pleased, Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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### A Family Prayer for Preparation for Death.

O most just and Holy God, who hast appointed unto all men once to die, and after that to judgment, where every one must receive according to what is done in the body, whether it be good or bad : O Lord, prepare us for this great and dreadful day, and make us such as thy Son will vouchsafe to own before the angels; pardon our many and crying guilts, wash us thoroughly from our offences, and cleanse us from all our sins; that when this mortal life is ended, we may rejoice in thy favor, may

pass from death to life, and be forever happy in the felicities of thy chosen. But lest our God should come in a day and an hour that we look not for him, and appoint us our portion with unbelievers; Lord, teach us to attend the coming of the bridegroom, and wait all our days till our change shall come; that when these corruptible shall be changed to incorruptible bodies, and we put off these filthy rags, we may be clothed with immortality, and live forever with him that died for sinners, Jesus Christ our Lord and blessed Saviour. Amen.

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A Short Morning Prayer for a Family, when there is not time for a longer.

O Almighty and most merciful Father, who hast been our helper and protector, when we were unable to help ourselves, and hast showed thy mercy and loving kindness to us, in preserving us the night past, and hitherto of this day: we bless

and magnify thy holy name for this and all thy mercies, from day to day vouchsafed unto us. O Lord, in mercy continue thy favor towards us, enlarge thy compassion in taking us this day into thy care; bring to nought all the devices of the wicked against us, make their counsels of none effect, and let not their imaginations prosper; defend us from the power and prevalence of temptations, from the snares of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and let no sin get dominion over us; send forth the light of thy Spirit, and thy grace to guide us, make all our designs harmless and innocent; and bless us in all our undertakings, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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A Short Evening Prayer for a Family, when there is not time for a longer.

Good God, be merciful unto us in the pardon of all our sins, particularly those of this day, whether by thought, word, or

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deed, committed against thee. Be pleased to accept our thanks and praise for all thy mercies, whether spiritual or temporal, vouchsafed unto us, particularly those of this day. O gracious Lord, to whom mercy belongs, bless us, we beseech thee, O our Father: be merciful unto the whole race of mankind, to all our friends, our relations, our kindred, our acquaintance, to all who desire our prayers; to all whom thou hast put in authority, or appointed to serve at thy altar. Be pleased to continue thy watchful eye of Providence over us and all that belongs unto us; secure and defend us from all evil accidents, sin, and danger; let no evil come nigh our dwelling, nor the wicked approach to hurt us. Let our lying down be in peace and safety, and let our rest be such, that in health and strength, we may rise again to praise thee, and serve thee in our several places, in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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A longer Family Prayer for any Morning.

O immortal, invisible, and only wise God, before whom the nations are as a drop of the bucket, and are counted as a small dust of the balance, thou, even thou, art God alone; thou hast made the heavens and the earth, and all things that are therein, and thou preservest them all: thy name is Jehovah, and thou art the highest over all the earth; thou hearest prayers, and to thee all flesh should come: hear us, O Lord, from heaven thy dwelling place, and when thou hearest, forgive us that are less than the least of all thy mercies, who were conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity, who are prodigal children, unprofitable servants, of polluted lips and uncircumcised hearts. O let thy good Spirit help our infirmities, and make intercession for us; shed abroad thy love in our hearts; stir up our souls to lay hold on thee, that we may not seek thy face in vain; have respect to the prayers of thy servants, hearken to our

cry and our supplications, that pray before thee this day. O Lord, thou madest man upright, but he has corrupted himself, and sought out many inventions: thou didst plant our first parents a noble vine, a right seed, but they turned quickly into a degenerate plant of a strange vine, and we their offspring are a seed of evil doers, a sinful people, laden with iniquity, wise to do evil, but foolish to do that which is good, casting thy laws behind our backs, and hating to be reformed. O how often is it that we will not know the ways of peace, and that thy fear is not before our eyes; that with greediness we run into the ways of destruction, as if we had made a covenant with death, and were at an agreement with the grave, choosing darkness rather than light, turning thy grace to wantonness, grieving and quenching the Spirit, whereby we should be sealed to the day of redemption, and treasuring up for ourselves wrath against the day of wrath, and revelation of the judgment of God. O holy Jesus, how just would it be with thee to deny us be-

fore the angels, that have so often denied thee before men, and say unto us, I know ye not, depart from me, ye workers of iniquity? But thou wouldst not that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance; thou wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should return and live; thou camest to save sinners, and through thy resurrection we have a lively hope. O let it be unto thy servants according unto thy word, and let us not be disappointed of our hope! Blot out the handwriting that is against us, and nail it to thy cross; take away our iniquity, and receive us graciously: strengthen us with thy Spirit in the inward man, teaching us, that denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we may live righteously, soberly, and godly in this present evil world: purge our consciences from dead works, to serve thee the living God; that we may work out our salvation with fear and trembling; and whilst it is called to-day, make our calling and election sure, that our bodies may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, and all

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our members instruments of righteousness ; that continually abounding in the work of the Lord, and confessing Christ before men, we may be owned before the angels, and finally attain to the resurrection of the just, and be saved in the number of the true Israelites.

Good Lord, enlighten those that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death ; guide their feet into the ways of peace, and daily add to the church such as shall be saved ; continue thy loving kindness to them that know thee ; let them rejoice that know thy name, and put their trust in thee ; and let every one that names the name of Christ, depart from all iniquity. Bless this nation to which we belong, teach all to fear thee, from the least to the greatest ; do thou delight to dwell among us, and make us that happy people who have the Lord for their God. Bless thy servants, our rulers and magistrates, and all the people of these United States. Let peace flourish in our land, and justice run down like a mighty stream ; and grant us such

Governors as may be a terror to evil works, and an encouragement to those that do well. Bless those that labor in the word and doctrine, give them courage boldly to rebuke vice, make them such workmen as need not be ashamed; let them not do the work of the Lord negligently; give them understanding zeal, and diligence answerable to their great calling; and let thy word prosper in their hands to the salvation of their own souls and those that hear them. O thou that art a helper of the friendless, defend the cause of the fatherless and widow; uphold those that fall, raise up those that are bowed down, and give medicine to heal all that are in sickness: speak peace to the wounded in conscience, and give them a sight of thy mercy, to whom the tempter or their own sins suggest despair; tho' thou hide thy face from them for a moment, with everlasting kindness have mercy upon them; and so direct thy judgments, that presumptuous sins may not get dominion over any one soul: show mercy to all that desire or need our prayers, be good to our

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friends, and forgive our enemies; lay not their sin to their charge. O Lord, open our lips, that our mouth may show forth thy praise, for all thy mercies continued to us, for the protection of the past night, and bringing us once more into thy presence: O Lord, watch over us this day for our good! Thou that spiest out all our ways, make them so direct, that we may keep thy statutes. O knit our hearts unto thee, that we may fear thy name! Let thy right hand defend us, thy arm hold us fast, and secure us from, or succour us in the midst of danger: let not any one temptation get dominion over us, but teach us to eschew evil, and do good. Let thy holy Spirit help our infirmities, make our thoughts innocent, our works unblameable, and our actions such as may afford us comfort when we shall be judged according to what we have done in the body. O be with us in all our undertakings! Bless us in all that we set our hands unto; bless, bless us, O our Father, and do more for us than we are able to ask or think, for Jesus Christ's sake,

our blessed Lord and Saviour, in whose words we are taught to pray, saying,

Our Father which are, &c.

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A longer Family Prayer for any Evening.

O Almighty God, who dwellest in light which no man can approach unto, and in whose sight there is no creature that is not manifest; who keepest mercy for thousands, forgivest iniquity, transgression and sin; who art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and never forsakest those that seek thee; who deliverest the needy when he crieth, the poor also, and him that hath no helper; who tookest us out of our mother's womb, and hast been our God ever since we were born; hear us, O Lord! who worship and fall down, and kneel before thee, our Maker, to give unto thee the honour due unto thy name, to bring an

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offering of praise, and seek thy face ; to offer unto thee a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and call upon thy name : give ear to our prayers, O God, and hide not thyself from our supplication. Let our prayers be set before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice. We cannot hide our sins from thee, before whom hell is naked, and destruction has no covering ; we therefore humble us before thee to confess our manifold sins and iniquities ; O teach us so to confess and forsake them, that it may be just and faithful with thee to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

O Lord, what are we men that thou shouldst be mindful of us, and we sons of men, that thou shouldst regard us. We are a seed of evil doers, by nature the children of wrath, born with a law in our members, that is still warring against the law in our minds, and striving to bring us into captivity to the law of sin. O wretched men that we are, who shall deliver us from this body of death ! for when we should do



good, evil is present with us, and without thee we can do nothing, but sin against thee ! Our imaginations have been vain, and our hearts desperately wicked ; our wills in bondage to corruption, and all our members instruments of unrighteousness. O how often have we broken thy laws, that are holy, just and good ! How often have we abused thy tender offers of mercy, and forgiveness, and not suffered thy goodness to lead us to repentance ! and though thou hast chastened and corrected us, how long have we hardened our hearts, and refused to return ! O how great is the number of our sins ! If we tell of them, they are more than we are able to express, and like the hairs of our head, and the sand of the sea shore for multitude. How just had it been with thee, O Lord ! long ere this time, to have given us our portion with the worm that gnaws and never dies ; and in that fire that burns, and shall not be quenched ! How justly mightest thou have consumed us in thy wrath, and sent us to that place where there is nothing but

weeping and wailing, and gnashing of teeth ; and given us the wages of sin, even death eternal. But thou hast promised, that when the unrighteous forsakes his ways, and the sinner his doings, he shall not die but live. O remember thy loving kindness, and pardon our iniquities, for they are great, for his sake that was born, and came into the world that he might save sinners, that he might be a propitiation for the sins of the world, that he might quicken those that were dead in trespasses and sins, and save that which was lost. For his sake, save us that deserve eternally to die ; save, Lord, or else we perish ! O despise not the work of thine own hands ! but be unto us a God forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin, and say unto every one of our souls, I am thy salvation. Do thou forgive the transgressions of our whole lives, particularly of this day ; and when thou hast made us whole, teach us to sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto us. Thou art the God of all flesh, and there is nothing too hard for thee ; O let not sin reign in our

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mortal bodies, but redeem us from our iniquities, and purge our consciences from dead works to serve thee the living God. Order our steps in thy word, and let not any iniquity have dominion over us; write thy law upon our hearts, put a new spirit within us, and make us free from the law of sin and death. O good God, sanctify us throughout, that our whole spirit, soul, and body, may be preserved blameless, till the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Teach us so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom; fit us for the worst of changes, prepare us for death and judgment, and that great account we are one day to give. Teach us so to wait the days of our appointed time, that our Lord may not come in an hour that we look not for him; but make us all fit to die, and then come Lord Jesus, O come quickly! Lord, show mercy to all that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death; give the heathen knowledge of thy laws, and guide their feet into the ways of peace. In a more especial manner, be good to all that

call upon thy name ; O make all our ways so direct, that we may keep thy statutes ; and teach us not only to cry Lord, Lord, but to do the will of our Father which art in heaven. Show mercy to this sinful land to which we belong ; pardon our many and our crying sins ; teach us all to fear thee from the least to the greatest ; make us a willing and obedient people ; plant thy love and fear in all our hearts ; and then suffer not thy displeasure to arise against thy people, and the sheep of thy pasture ; unite our divisions, and heal our distractions, and teach us to follow peace with all men, and keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. And for the sake of this church and nation, bless thy servants, thou hast appointed to rule over us ; bring to nought all the councils of the wicked against them ; let their malice fall upon their own heads, but upon them let the dew of thy heavenly grace descend. Bless all in authority, from the least to the greatest ; make them zealous of good works, and crown them with glory and immortality. Bless all the ministers of justice, give them

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zeal for thy glory, make them a terror unto evil works, and encouragers of those that do well. Bless the lot of thine inheritance, the tribe of Levi, give them innocence and prudence, and let them shine like stars in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. Give them courage boldly to rebuke vice, give them zeal, and piety, and wisdom answerable to the necessities of the present age, and their high calling; make them examples to their flocks, and bless thy word to the salvation of their own souls, and those that hear them. Lord, be good to all that need or desire our prayers; bless all our friends and relations, and let all that are dear to us, be so to thee; bless those that curse us, and accept our prayers for those that have, or would despitefully use us. Remember for good this place to which we belong; let brotherly kindness and charity and whatever else is praiseworthy, dwell amongst us. O Lord, in mercy accept our sacrifices of thanks and praise for our health and strength, for prolonging our day of repentance, and giving us so

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many invitations to repent and live; and for all the mercies of this day, and from day to day vouchsafed unto us. Now, O Lord, into thy hands, as into the hands of our faithful Creator and Redemer, we commend our souls and bodies, and all that belong unto us; let thy Providence be our defence; and thy angels our guard; defend us from the malice of the devil, and wicked men, from all sin, sad accidents and danger; do thou that neither slumberest nor sleepest, make us dwell in safety. Let not any evil come nigh our dwelling, or approach to hurt us; but refresh our bodies with moderate sleep and rest, and bring us once more to praise thee in the land of the living. All which we humbly beg for his sake that has promised to give whatsoever we ask in his name: to whom with thee, and thy holy Spirit, three Persons and one God, be ascribed all honour and praise, both now and for evermore. Amen.

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SHORT PRAYERS

TO BE ADDED TO ANY OF THE FOREGOING.

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A Prayer for Pardon, Faith, Repentance, Grace,  
Holiness and Perseverance.

O most merciful and Almighty Father, who art able out of stony hearts to raise up children unto Abraham, and make us here, such as thou wilt accept hereafter; in mercy forgive all our sins; let them never rise in this world to shame us, nor in that which is to come to condemn us; let thy mercy, and the merits of thy Son, be the foundation of our faith, and the assistance of thy Spirit make it strong and steadfast, active and vigorous, and effectual to the salvation of our souls: give us a due sense of the guilt and danger of our sins: teach us to hate and abhor them, and by a severe, holy,

and timely repentance, fly from the wrath to come. Let thy grace be powerful in us to the beating down the strong holds of sin and satan, enabling us to mortify our lusts, to subdue our corruptions, and overcome all temptations to sin and vanity. Lord, make us holy in all manner of conversation, that our lives may be such as become the gospel of Christ, and our good works an ornament to our holy profession; and that in good time we may reap, if we faint not; let perseverance crown our piety, and so direct and guide us all our days, that by patient continuance in well-doing, we may seek for glory, and honor, and immortality, and life eternal, for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

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For Justice, Charity, Thankfulness, and Chastity.

O eternal Father, who knowest what sins beset us, and what temptations most readily prevail upon us; do thou watch over us for



our good, and be our constant guard and guide ; let not a desire of any thing in this world, ever tempt us to deceit or fraud, or betray us to the least injustice; but do thou teach us to be just to our rulers, in giving them the tributes of respect and obedience, of love and honor, the things that are theirs; and to all our equals teach us to do as we would be done unto, and in all our actions to do justly. Open our hearts to forgive our enemies, and do good to them that hate us. Make us tender of the welfare, and compassionate to the suffering of others ; and let us never forget that to do good and to communicate, are the sacrifices with which God is well pleased. Give us a due sense of all thy mercies, and never let us fail to return thy blessings in thanks and praise, and study to show forth our thankfulness, not only in our lips, but our lives. Deliver us from the power and prevalence of lust and wantonness, and sanctify us throughout, that our bodies may be preserved holy, and undefiled, and we at last may be blessed among them that are sancti-

fied, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen

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For Patience, Humility, Content and Temperance.

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose hand are the hearts of men, and from whom comes every good and perfect gift; in mercy look down upon us, who of ourselves can do nothing but sin against thee: thou knowest what we are, and rememberest whereof we are made, and how apt we are to forget it: let thy goodness supply all our defects, and thy mercy help our infirmity; make us perfect masters of our passions, that the harshest dispensations of thy Providence may never be uneasy to us, nor any provocations from men ever hurry us to rage, passion, or impatience, but amidst the trials we meet with here, teach us to preserve a calm and easy temper, a spirit serene and gentle, and easy to be entreated: root out that pride and vanity that cleave so close

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to our corrupted natures; and give us that meek and humble temper that may be of great price in the sight of thee our God, and render us acceptable and useful unto men. Give us such a sense of thy wisdom and our own demerit, that we may think those circumstances fittest for us that thou appointest; and the worst condition we can be in, better than we deserve; that we may entirely resign ourselves to thy will and conduct, and be better content in whatever state thou art pleased to place us. Finally, we beseech thee that thou wouldst not suffer the temptations to intemperance to prevail upon us, nor our appetites ever to ensnare us; do thou teach us temperance and sobriety, and so constantly assist us, that amidst all the allurements to riot and excess, our bodies may be preserved pure and undefiled, as temples of the Holy Ghost; and all for his sake who was made man, Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

### A Prayer to be used by a Family for a Sick Man.

Hearken unto us, O Lord, our King, and our God, for unto thee will we make our prayers ! O thou great physician of soul and body, who killest and makest alive, who turnest man to destruction, and by thy power bringest back the children of men from the dust of death, and the jaws of hell. O Lord, hear us that now call upon thee for this thy servant ; with the wholesome strength of thy right hand support and grant him the light of thy countenance ; make his bed in his sickness, and teach him to put his whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and let him rejoice in thy salvation. With the grace of thy holy Spirit sanctify all his sufferings, that he may turn and inquire after thee his God, before the evil day of death shall come, and make his peace before he stand at thy tribunal to be judged for all he has done in his mortal body. O holy Father, who art a God of the spirits of all flesh, look in mercy on this thy

servant ; lay upon him no more than thou enablest him to bear ; teach him to resign his will to thine, and by his patience and submission to thy will, to glorify thee in this day of his visitation. O Lord, we know that man that is born of a woman is not clean in thy sight ; and if thou shouldst be extreme to mark all that this thy servant has done amiss, he could not answer thee one of a thousand : but thy mercies are infinite, and thy compassion never fails ; therefore for thy mercies sake, turn thy face away from his iniquities, and blot out all his transgressions ; charge his sins upon the score of thy Son, and let the hand writing of ordinances be nailed to the cross, and so wash him in the blood of the immaculate Lamb, that his sins that are as red as scarlet, may be white as snow. Seal his pardon before he go hence, and be no more seen ; and in this his day let his work be finished, before the night come, in which he cannot work. O Lord, heal his soul, and then, if it be thy good pleasure, his body

also ; raise him up to praise thee once more in the land of the living, and make him so sensible that 'twas thy hand which gained the victory, that his mouth may show forth thy praise, and declare the wonders that thou dost for the children of men, and his yet unfinished days make him more fit for the great day of accounts. But if he must shortly die, good Lord, set his house in order ; make his repentance serious, his faith steadfast, and let the merits of thy Son shield him from thy wrath, and his righteousness protect him from thy justice, that he may be received into the number of the faithful, and enter into the joy prepared for them that love and fear thee ; and from every example of mortality, teach us to remember whereof we are made, to consider we are but a shadow that passeth away ; and so to remember our latter end, that living we may live in thy fear, dying we may die in thy favour, and finally pass from death to life, and to all eternity partake in their joys that die in the Lord.

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Lord, hear us, and answer us, for thy Son's sake, who died to save sinners, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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A Family Prayer in behalf of a Woman in Sickness,

Almighty God, to whom alone belong the issues of life and death : O Lord, look upon thy servant in whose bones there is no rest by reason of her sin, and in whose flesh there is no health by reason of thy displeasure ; make haste, O Lord, to help her ; let it be thy pleasure to deliver her, and make no long tarrying to be her helper and redeemer. O our God ! if it be thy blessed will, give not over unto death thy servant that thou now chastenest and correcteth, but restore the voice of joy and health, and raise her up to praise thee in the land of the living, and let her rejoice in the great things thou hast done for her soul. But if her glass be run, and she even hard at

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death's door, O Lord, deliver thy servant thou hast appointed to die ; deliver her from those sins that are too heavy a burthen for her to bear, from the snares of the destroyer, the deceitful love of this world, and the wrath to come. Let her death be precious in thy sight, and let her be numbered among thy saints in glory everlasting ; but whether she live or die, Lord, make her thine ; give her a free and full pardon of all her sins : O let her iniquities be no more remembered before thee ; form in her soul the image of thy Son, and let her body be the temple of the Holy Ghost. Sanctify her throughout, and make her every day more and more fit for the appearance of the Lord Jesus. Create a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within her. Let her faith be lively, and work by love ; let her hope be such as purifies from all filthiness both of flesh and spirit ; and give her a repentance never to be repented of, that when this mortal body shall put on immortality, and this corruptible incorruption, death may be swallowed up of victory, and she



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may be crowned with glory and immortality; and that this scourging may be an evidence of thy love, and this chastisement that thou intendest to receive her; teach her that has received so much good, with the patience of Job to receive evil from the hands of the Lord: let thy strength still wait upon thy rod, and thy comforts sweeten all her sufferings: O teach her to resign her will to thine, and in the midst of all the troubles thou layest upon her, with patience to possess her soul, and suffer her not at her last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee; but, Lord, receive her soul into the place appointed for the spirits of just persons made perfect, through the blood and merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for a sick Child, to be said by a  
Family.

O Almighty Father, who didst make and fashion us in the womb, and whose gift children are, with the eyes of pity and compassion look down upon the creature which thou hast made: O Lord, call not our ways to remembrance, but be merciful unto us, that this child may live; and do thou that hast ordained thy praise out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, continue this child in the land of the living, and out of its mouth perfect thy own praise. O take it not away in the flower of its age, but let it live to declare thy power to the generation that is yet to come; but if thou art pleased to take it from us, take it to thyself; say unto its soul, I am thy salvation, and let it be with thee in paradise, for the sake of thy Holy Child, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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A Prayer for a Woman in Travail, to be used by her friends or Family, or any Particular Person in her behalf.

O blessed Jcsus, who didst not abhor the virgin's womb, when thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, but wast made in the form of a servant, and born of a woman; according to thy great goodness look upon thy servant, and be merciful unto her, as thou usest to be unto those that fear thy name. Know her soul in adversity, and be her helper and deliverer, now her soul is troubled, and her pains take hold upon her: be thou her present help in this time of trouble, and make no long tarrying, O our God! And till in thy good appointed time thou turn her heaviness to rejoicing, and her mourning into joy, be pleased to support her under all her agonies, and with the consolation of thy Holy Spirit, comfort her in all her pains. O thou that formest thy image in the womb, and hast brought it to the birth, give her strength to bring

forth, and let her live to rejoice in the fruits of her womb: give her patience to await her hour; fit her for the worst that may happen, and make her forever thine, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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A Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Child Birth, to be used by a Family, or a Particular Person in the Woman's behalf.

O God, from whom all good things do come, and to whom all praises are due, to thy name be ascribed all honor and praise, that hast heard the cry of thy servant, and delivered her from the bitter pangs and agonies of child-birth: thou hast known her soul in trouble, and remembered her for good. Let thy praise be as great as thy mercy; and let all the ends of the world confess that thou art God alone, and that none can deliver as thou dost: and let thy honor be great in the salvation of thy servant. O let her live to come into thy

courts, to praise thee among the multitude, and tell what great things thou hast done for her soul: bless the fruit of her womb, and make all that are, or shall be her's, thy children; give her grace to live in thy fear, and save her in the number of the true Israelites, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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A Prayer to be said for a Sick Person, before his receiving the Sacrament, by a Family or a Single Person.

O Almighty and most merciful Father, who hadst commanded thy servants to pray one for another, and promised to hear their prayers when two or three are gathered together in thy name: O Lord hear us from heaven thy dwelling place, and accept (our) (my) prayers in the behalf of thy servant: Lord, bless him, and keep him, make thy face to shine upon him, and give him peace both now and for evermore: in-

crease his strength and patience; sanctify all his sufferings, and let it be good for him that he has been afflicted. Bring his ways to his remembrance and repentance; and so set his sins in order before him, that he may abhor himself in dust and ashes, and turn with all his heart unto Thee his God. O let his ways be made so direct that he may keep thy statutes, that he may turn from the evil of his way, and save his soul alive: give him the wedding garment, that he may be acceptable at the marriage feast, and worthily eat of that bread, and drink of that cup: let that be a pledge of thy favor and thy love; seal his pardon and his peace, and do thou receive him into covenant with thee. Pardon all his unworthiness, hide his sins in the robes of thy Son's righteousness; confer upon him all the benefits of thy Son's death, and be thou unto him the God of his salvation; prepare him for death and judgment, and that great account he is one day to give: let the mercies of thy table fit him for the glories of thy throne; and his attending on thy Son

in his humility, be a means to make him owned before thee, O Father ! and thy holy angels, when thy Son shall come in glory to judge the world : to whom, with thee, and thy holy Spirit, be ascribed all honor and glory, praise and adoration, both now and for evermore. Amen.

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A Thanksgiving to be used by a Family for Recovery from Sickness, or Deliverance from any common Trouble.

O merciful Lord, that hast heard our prayers, and not turned thy mercies from us, but in thy great goodness hast put off our mourning, girded us with gladness, and restored the voice of joy and health to our dwellings: O Lord, thou hast dealt graciously with us, and of very faithfulness caused us to be troubled: O let thy merciful kindness be continually upon us, and teach us to be glad and rejoice in thy mercy, that hast considered our trouble, and known our

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souls in adversity ; and so to learn thy statutes, that it may be good for us that we have been afflicted. O let us be telling of thy salvation from day to day ; let all that is ours praise thy holy name ; and let us do all that lies in us, to make thy honor great in our salvation, and thy name glorious throughout the world ; and in whatsoever troubles thou layest upon us for the time to come, let our trust be in thee ; do thou deliver us in thy righteousness, and let us never be brought to confusion. O help us in our trouble, for the help of man is vain ! and so bless all thy fatherly chastisements, that they may all redound to thy honor, and the good of our own souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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A Thanksgiving to be said by a Family, for the Recovery of a Particular Person from Sickness, or Deliverance out of some imminent Trouble or Danger.

O Lord, who art a present help in trouble, and never leavest nor forsakest thy servants; 'twas thy hand which delivered thy servant: thou, O Lord, hast done it, thou hast delivered a soul from hell, and thy servant from the pit of destruction; thou hast done a great thing, whereat we all rejoice, and come now before thee, to praise thee with joyful lips. But thy praise is above heaven and earth, what can we therefore give unto thee, O Lord, for all the benefits thou hast done unto us! But thou hast commanded that we should offer unto thee our sacrifice of thanksgiving, we will therefore always give thanks unto thee, O Lord; thy praise shall be ever in our mouths, and we will praise thy name forever. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high! O let thy mercy unto thy servant bring forth a great-

er care and vigilance for the time to come, to live in all holy obedience towards thee ! to remember, that 'tis appointed unto all men once to die ; and be thou merciful unto thy servant, as thou usest to be to those that fear thy name : Lord, make us all so sensible of thy mercy and loving kindness, that we may study to please thee in all holy obedience, and be always ready at whatsoever time, and in whatsoever manner, it shall please thee to call upon us ; and at last be made co-heirs in glory with thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINIS.









